

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE

GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Netherland Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, February 5-7, 1957

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RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

General Council members present:

Dr. James E. Wagner, chairman; Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, secretary; Mr. Allan G. Aigler, Mr. Samuel C. Bond, Jr., Mrs. E. Roy Corman, Dr. Donald C. Dearborn, Dr. John W. Flucke, Dr. Albert G. Gonser, Dr. John R. C. Haas, Dr. Ben M. Herbster, Dr. F. A. Keck, Dr. Erwin R. Koch, Dr. Emil N. Krafft, Mrs. Milton C. Lang, Dr. Roy W. Limbert, Dr. John W. Mueller, Dr. John L. Schmidt, Dr. Robert C. Stanger, Mr. Harold F. Webber.

Advisory members present:

Dr. Purd E. Deitz, (National Missions), Dr. Dobbs F. Ehlman (International Missions), Dr. Franklin I. Sheeder (Christian Education and Publication), Dr. Robert C. Kienle (Business Management), Dr. Silas P. Bittner (Pensions and Relief), Dr. Fred C. Schweinfurth (Evangelism), Dr. Huber F. Klemme (Christian Social Action), Dr. Otto R. Gerber (Higher Education), Dr. James W. Bright (Stewardship), Dr. L. W. Goebel (World Service), Dr. Harold H. Wilke (Church and Ministry), Dr. Carl W. Klein and Dr. L. C. T. Miller (United Promotion), Rev. J. Kenneth Kohler (Churchmen's Brotherhood), Mrs. Guy A. Benchoff and Miss Florence A. Partridge (Women's Guild), Dr. Theodore C. Braun (The Messenger), Rev. Otto Press (Der Friedensbote), Dr. Alexander Toth (Reformatusok Lapja).

Tuesday, February 5

The General Council was called to order by the chairman at 9:30 a.m.
The opening devotional service was led by Dr. Flucke.

President Wagner greeted the members of the General Council and the advisory members, including President Emeritus Goebel. Dr. Goebel stated that he was attending the meeting as chairman of the Commission on World Service, since the executive secretary, Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich, was unable to be present.

The General Council noted that Mr. Joseph C. Wetzel was absent because of a business engagement which could not be cancelled.

Dr. Herbster welcomed the members and advisory members of the General Council to Cincinnati and informed them that they were to be the guests of the Evangelical and Reformed churches of the Cincinnati area at a dinner at Philippus Church on Wednesday evening.

AGENDA

Secretary Mackey presented the agenda for the meeting. It was VOTED to adopt the agenda as presented.

HOURS FOR THE SESSIONS

The Secretary presented a tentative time schedule for the meeting. It was VOTED to adopt this schedule with the proviso that an executive session be made the order of the day for 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

MINUTES

The Secretary presented the minutes of the meeting which had been held at Cleveland last October and called attention to certain items requiring further consideration by the General Council.

Protestant Orphans' Home, Louisville, Ky. (p. 2). Dr. Mueller reported that the acceptance of the Protestant Orphans' Home as a member of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions was being held in abeyance while the Commission and representatives of the Home endeavored to reach an agreement concerning certain technicalities relating to the standard for a benevolent institution of our Church.

National Council of Churches: Delegates and alternates to Biennial Assembly, 1957 (p. 4). Dr. Wagner stated that he was awaiting final word from the National Council concerning the Evangelical and Reformed quota of delegates to the 1957 Biennial Assembly. The General Council VOTED to authorize the Administrative Committee to appoint our delegates to this meeting.

Dr. Wagner informed the General Council that after this year the Assembly will meet triennially.

Group insurance (p. 17). Dr. Mackey, reporting for the Committee on Insurance, stated that all members of the General Council were covered by a policy which had been secured from the Travelers' Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., but that the item relating to automobile travel was not in final form, so must be reported upon later.

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the meeting held October 23 and 24, 1956.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Mackey presented as the report of the Administrative Committee the minutes of meetings which the committee had held on October 24, 1956 and January 15, 1957.

October 1956 meeting

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held October 24, 1956.

January 1957 meeting

Zion Church, Clayton, Mo. (pp. 4 & 6). The General Council VOTED to approve the action taken by the Administrative Committee in regard to the pastorate of the proposed federated church at Clayton, Mo.

Camp Ohio (p. 5). The Council VOTED to confirm the Administrative Committee's action approving a program of the four Ohio synods for the development of Camp Ohio, near Massillon, Ohio.

Temporary licensure for Henry A. Geist (pp. 5-6). President Wagner reported that he had informed the presidents of Susquehanna and Reading Synods of the Administrative Committee's recommendations in connection with the renewal of temporary license for Mr. Geist. The General Council VOTED to approve the renewal of temporary license and the recommendations which accompanied it.

Privilege of call (p. 7). The Council VOTED to uphold the Administrative Committee's refusal to grant privilege of call to Rev. Alfred Irving Saeger.

The Council VOTED to confirm the privilege of call granted to Revs. Howard Spaulding Fuller, N. S. Hoffman, Vernon Waldo Rice, Joseph Bevilacqua and Fred E. Luchs.

Pending the receipt of a report concerning Rev. Edward W. Ohrenstein from the Committee on Church and Ministry of Pacific Northwest Synod, the General Council took no action upon his application for privilege of call.

The Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held January 15, 1957.

COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

Dr. Wagner announced that Dr. Haas, Mrs. Corman and Dr. Dearborn had been appointed as the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The First Vice-President, Dr. Haas, assumed the chairmanship of the meeting, and President Wagner submitted his report, including a supplement which had been prepared since his arrival at Cincinnati. (Copy appended) The report was received and referred to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

President Wagner read the following report of Dr. W. Sherman Kerschner, who retired from the office of Secretary of the Church on January 31:

To the General Council:

Having presented a detailed report at a meeting of the Administrative Committee on January 15, I have no additional items to report at this annual meeting of the General Council. Suffice it to state that the closing weeks of my tenure of office as Secretary of the Church have been devoted to putting my work into as good order as possible for my successor, Dr. Mackey. I know of no man in our Church who is better qualified to take over the duties of the Secretary than is he, and I extend to him my heartfelt good wishes as he assumes the responsibilities that have been mine.

I shall always treasure the memory of the years in which I served as Secretary of the Church and of the General Council. My thoughts will often be with you as you labor in the service of our beloved Church and of the United Church of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Sherman Kerschner

The foregoing report was received and referred to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

Dr. Wagner told of a luncheon which had been given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Kerschner on January 22 by Dr. Kerschner's colleagues in the Schaff Building, Philadelphia. The General Council requested the incoming Secretary, Dr. Mackey, to send the greetings and good wishes of the Council to Dr. and Mrs. Kerschner.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Keck presented his report. (Copy appended) The report was received and referred to the Committee on Finance and Budget.

REPORT OF THE COUNSELOR

Dr. Mueller presented a verbal report upon a number of matters with which he had been concerned as counselor of the Church. The report was received as information.

TELEVISION PICTURES

At this point pictures of the General Council were taken for use on a television program.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY - I

The report of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary was presented by Dr. Dearborn. First Vice-President Haas, as chairman of the committee, requested Second Vice-President Mueller to preside while the report was before the General Council.

The consideration of the report was interrupted by the mid-day recess, but was resumed immediately after the recess and was continued until four o'clock, for which hour an executive session of the Council had been made the order of the day. Action having been taken on items 1-29 of the report, the consideration of items 30-38 was deferred until the evening session.

NEW MEMBER OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council, meeting in executive session, VOTED to elect Mr. J. Milton Rasche of Iowa Synod to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Herbert W. Beutel as a member of the Council.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET - I

The General Council continued in executive session in order to consider and take action upon a partial report of the Committee on Finance and Budget. The report was presented by Mr. Webber. The first item being a tentative salary schedule for the new fiscal year, the President, the First Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the counselor of the Church were excused from attendance while their respective salaries were under consideration.

The report was acted upon item by item. Items 1, 2 and 3 were amended and adopted as amended. Item 4 was adopted without change.

As adopted these items are as follows:

1. The Committee on Finance and Budget has reviewed all salaries within its purview, as well as the recommendations of the boards and agencies, and recommends the following salary schedule for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 1957:

SALARY:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Officers of the Church		
President.....	\$11,000.....	\$15,000
First Vice-President.....	600.....	1,200
Secretary.....	7,500.....	8,000 & 2,000
We recommend that the salary of the Secretary be \$8,000 plus \$1,200 rental allowance, and that so long as the office of Administrative Assistant to the President is vacant and the duties are carried by the Secretary, the Secretary receive \$2,000 additional salary for performing such duties		
Treasurer.....	8,000.....	9,000
Department of United Promotion		
Associate Directors.....	6,200.....	6,500
National Field Secretary.....	5,600.....	5,900
Audio-Visual Aids, Director.....	5,900.....	5,500-6,000
Board of International Missions		
Executive Secretary.....	6,600.....	7,500
Associate Secretary (Philadelphia).....	5,000.....	5,500
Associate Secretary (St. Louis).....	5,400.....	5,900
Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.....	5,000.....	5,500
Board of National Missions		
Executive Secretary.....	\$6,600.....	\$7,500
Field Secretaries.....	5,400.....	5,900
Town and Country Church, Secretary.....	5,400.....	5,700
City Church, Secretary.....	5,400.....	5,700
* Church Building, Secretary.....	6,600.....	6,600
* Assistant Treasurer.....	5,800.....	6,300
* No housing allowance		
Commission on World Service		
Executive Secretary.....	7,000.....	7,500
Assistant to Executive Secretary.....	4,500.....	4,800
Church papers		
<u>The Messenger</u> - Editor.....	6,400.....	7,000
Assistant Editor.....	5,000.....	5,500
<u>Der Friedensbote</u> - Editor.....	4,200.....	4,200
<u>Reformatusok Lapja</u> - Editor.....	4,200.....	4,200
Board of Pensions and Relief		
Executive Secretary-Treasurer....	8,300 & 1,500.....	9,800
Board of Christian Education and Publication		
Executive Secretary.....	6,800.....	7,500
Fred D. Wentzel.....	6,000.....	6,500
Edward L. Schlingman.....	5,600.....	5,800
Hartland H. Helmich.....	5,600.....	5,800
Bernice A. Buehler.....	5,600.....	5,800

		SALARY:	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Fred E. McQueen.....	5,600.....	5,800	
Henry Tani.....	5,600.....	5,800	
William E. Wimer.....	5,600.....	5,800	
Robert E. Koenig.....	5,400.....	5,600	
Marie R. Remmel.....	4,900.....	5,100	
Ethel A. Shellenberger.....	4,900.....	5,100	
Greta P. Hinkle.....	4,800.....	5,000	
Herman C. Ahrens, Jr.	4,400.....	4,600	
Irene Balliet.....	4,400.....	4,600	
Lael Henderson.....	4,000.....	4,200	
Rose M. Kniker.....	4,000.....	4,200	
Leona Poppe.....	4,000.....	4,200	
Johanna Stroetker.....	3,600.....	3,800	
Stanley Wilke.....	6,200.....	6,400	
Jerome Jay Fussell.....	5,700.....	5,900	
Counselor of the Church.....	3,000.....	5,000	
Churchmen's Brotherhood			
Executive Secretary.....	6,000.....	6,400	
Commission on Evangelism			
Executive Secretary.....	5,800.....	6,400	
Associate Secretary.....	5,800.....	5,800	
Field Secretary.....	5,100.....	5,300	
Commission on Christian Social Action			
Executive Secretary.....	5,700.....	6,400	
Associate Secretary.....	5,400.....	5,800	
Race Relations Secretary.....	5,100.....	5,300	
Commission on Church and Ministry			
Executive Secretary.....	5,800.....	6,400	
Commission on Stewardship			
Executive Secretary.....		6,400	

The General Council recommends the foregoing salary schedule to the boards and agencies involved, and to the Committee on Publication with reference to the editors of the Church papers.

2. The General Council directs that salary adjustments approved for executive secretaries and staff personnel be referred to the chairman or president of the appropriate agency by the President of the Church, and that the President explain the discretionary power of the agency in dealing with salary matters.

3. (a) The General Council reminds each board and agency that it is to file its salary schedule, with any suggested changes, at the end of each year, and that this schedule and the proposed changes, if any, are to be sent to the Treasurer of the Church on a paper separate from any report which would otherwise come before the General Council.

(b) The General Council directs the Treasurer of the Church to send to each board and agency, on or about September 1, a form on which to record the

salaries paid by the board or agency and suggestions regarding the same. This form shall include a question concerning rental allowances for lay employees.

4. The Committee on Finance and Budget recommends to the General Council that there be a Director of United Promotion.

Women's Guild. The chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget was requested to secure from the president or the executive secretary of the Women's Guild information regarding salaries paid by the Guild.

The executive session was concluded at 5:30 p.m., and a recess was taken until 7:30 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY - II

At the beginning of the evening session the remaining items of the report of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary were presented and acted upon.

The record of actions taken upon this report is as follows:

Items 3, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20 and 37 were amended and adopted as amended. Item 14 was further amended by the adoption of a substitute for part "c." Substitutes also were adopted for items 6 and 36. With the exception of items 24, 28 and 31, the other items were adopted in their entirety and without change. In item 24, part "a" was marked "attended to" and part "b" was adopted. In item 28, part "a" was adopted, but part "b" was edited and referred to the Administrative Committee for study and report to the General Council. Item 31 was adopted with a proviso that the President and the Secretary be granted editorial power to put it into final form.

The adoption of part "a" of item 4 was followed by a brief period of silent prayer and a concluding prayer by President Wagner.

After item 38 had been adopted, the report was adopted as a whole. As adopted it is as follows:

1. The General Council extends its sincere appreciation to President Wagner for the complete and detailed reports upon the ongoing work of the office of the President of the Church and upon his visit to the Far East, and looks forward with anticipation to the further information concerning the latter to be given at the open meeting on Wednesday evening. In the light of the revealing information given in the report on the Far East, we look forward with keen interest to the further visits planned on the part of the President to our other mission fields.

2. The General Council shares with Christian people everywhere sorrow over the events of past months in Hungary and rejoices in the courageous witness of the Hungarian people.

It commends the President of the Church and the Commission on World Service for moving quickly to provide aid, the churches for their generous responses to the needs of refugees and those remaining in Hungary, and the effective work of the Rev. Arpad Beretz and the Rev. Imre Bertalan in assisting refugees to enter the United States.

It urges the continued concern of the Church for the Hungarian people, especially for such leaders as Bishop Ladislav Ravasz and Dean Laszlo Pap.

3. The General Council adopts as policy in receiving refugee Hungarian clergymen:

- (a) that the refugee minister indicate his willingness and intent to become a citizen of the United States;

- (b) that he accept placement for a period of at least one year as an assistant or associate pastor with a pastor now serving one of our Hungarian charges, the charge assuming responsibility for housing and subsidizing the refugee pastor and his family;
- (c) that under the guidance of the pastor primarius, the Commission on Church and Ministry, and the Committee on Church and Ministry of the synod concerned, the refugee minister undertake a regular process of orientation through counseling and prescribed reading in Evangelical and Reformed history and traditions.

4. (a) The General Council adopts the following resolution concerning the passing of Herbert W. Beutel:

The General Council recalls with deep appreciation the faithful services of Herbert W. Beutel throughout his six years of membership in this body. As a committed Christian, a consecrated member of his home church (St. Paul's, Dallas, Texas), an active participant in interdenominational cooperation, he gave of his time, talents and treasure as a faithful steward of his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Not only will we miss him in our sessions, but will frequently recall his keen insight, his helpful, stimulating and constructive suggestions when matters of concern to the life of the Church were being considered. We cherish his memory and honor him as a devoted servant of his Church and a fellow-worker in seeking to expand the Kingdom of Christ.

The Committee recommends that the General Council pause at this time for a period of silent prayer in memory of Herbert W. Beutel, with a closing prayer by President Wagner.

(b) The General Council directs the Secretary of the Church to send a copy of the above resolution to the members of Mr. Beutel's family.

5. The General Council places on the agenda of an executive session the election of a layman to fill the vacancy on the General Council.

6. The General Council approves the plans for the merger of Iowa and Nebraska Synods into the Mid-West Synod, with the exception that the date, December 31, 1957, be changed to "the end of the fiscal year."

The attention of boards and commissions and of the synod is called to the differences between the committee organization in the proposal and that outlined in By-Laws 79-81. The General Council believes it may be well to experiment with such coordinated and correlated committees so long as the required numbers of members are observed, and requests that a report of the experience of the Mid-West Synod be made in the fall of 1958. Pending such a report and any subsequent revision of the By-Laws, such an arrangement must be considered as temporary.

7. (a) Recognizing the intent of the General Synod that the Historical Society supersede the Historical Committee, the General Council refers to the Committee on Constitutional Matters (1) appropriate revision of By-Law 127b (125b in tentative new numbering), and (2) definition of the relationship of the Historical Society to the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

(b) The General Council approves the transfer of funds allotted to the work of the Historical Committee and the Historical Society to the treasurer of the board of management of these agencies, and refers the matter of the guaranteed advance of this allotment to the Committee on Finance and Budget.

8. The General Council commends Lakeland College on its progress and encourages it to proceed as rapidly as possible toward accreditation.

9. (a) The General Council invites the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to consider joining with us in a study of the problem of Hungarian and other Reformed people in South America, especially in Brazil and Argentina.

(b) To implement such a study the General Council directs the Administrative Committee to appoint a committee of three persons, representing the Board of International Missions, the Commission on World Service and the General Council, who shall be authorized to visit the areas concerned and to propose courses of action within the framework previously agreed upon as a basis for cooperative action of these three agencies.

(c) The General Council suggests that the expense of this committee be prorated among the Board, the Commission and the General Council, and further suggests to the Committee on Finance and Budget that the General Council's share might come from the Contingent Fund.

(d) In the event that the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. does not join in the study, our committee is authorized to proceed in consultation with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

10. The General Council refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the petition of the Board of International Missions and the statements of the Board of National Missions and the Board of Christian Education and Publication. In this reference the General Council expresses its belief that the level of giving suggested in these statements can be attained, and its faith in the determination of the Church to carry out the Program of Advance.

11. The General Council members individually take cognizance of the admonition of the President urging attendance at the Joint Meeting with the Congregational Christian Executive Committee on February 21-22, at Cleveland, Ohio, and of the possibility of further calls upon their time and services prior to the Uniting General Synod.

12. (a) The General Council expresses its appreciation to the Administrative Committee for having carefully worked out and approved the procedures toward the establishment of the Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ, as authorized by the Council.

(b) The General Council notes that subcommittees have completed a document setting forth procedures for integration of the work of International Missions. Without seeming to prejudge this document on behalf of the Board of International Missions, the General Council approves the plan contingent upon concurring action by the Board.

13. The General Council approves the actions of the Board of Business Management (see p. 11, President's Report) proposing a committee to make plans for an official journal of the United Church of Christ. The Council appoints as one of its members the chairman of its Committee on Publication, Dr. Erwin R. Koch, and authorizes the President, in consultation with Dr. Koch, to name two additional members from that Committee.

14. (a) The General Council defers until after the Joint Meeting scheduled for February 21-22 the question of ordination for, and eligibility to, ministry in the United Church of Christ.

(b) The General Council adopts as its policy that a minister of the Congregational Christian Churches who, after the establishment of the United Church of Christ, desires to serve an Evangelical and Reformed congregation be required to request privilege of call. Such privilege is to be granted without examination or review by a synodical Committee on Church and Ministry. The usual year of probation will be waived so that upon call by an Evangelical and Reformed congregation the minister will have membership in the respective synod. The minister will not, by his acceptance of such call, be required to surrender ministerial standing in the Congregational Christian Churches. In all cases the placement procedure provided in the Constitution and By-Laws shall be followed.

(c) In anticipation of the establishment of the United Church of Christ in June 1957, and in keeping with our desire to share fully in the mutual recognition of the life and ministries of the fellowship with which we are uniting, the General Council agrees that any Evangelical and Reformed minister who is under obligation for student loans from the Church or any of its synods, and who after the effective date of formation of the United Church should accept a call to serve within what is now the Congregational Christian fellowship, will be considered as continuing to satisfy the length of time in service required to discharge his or her obligations for student loans.

15. The General Council appoints to the Nominating Committee of the Uniting General Synod the members of our Standing Committee on Nominations - Dr. Willard A. Kratz, Mr. Carl J. Bender, Rev. Ruben J. Bierbaum, Rev. Paul N. Blaufuss, Miss Frances Kapitzky, Dr. Henry C. Koch and Mr. Alvin R. Wolff - and, in addition, Rev. R. G. Beck, Mr. August Burchardt, Mr. Roderic A. Dietz, Dr. Gerhard W. Grauer, Mr. Mark L. Robb, Mr. Herbert J. Schairbaum, Rev. George A. Smith and Rev. Paul B. Snead.

16. The General Council designates to the Nominating Committee, as nominees for membership on the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, the seven members of the Administrative Committee of the General Council and five other members of the General Council to be chosen by the Administrative Committee, having in mind geographical distribution, special competences and other pertinent factors.

17. The General Council approves the following elections:

Dr. Russell D. Custer and Mr. Jerrus N. Bryant as members of the Board of National Missions;

Charles T. Bonos, Esq., as a member of the Board of International Missions;

Mr. William C. Mingle and Mr. Fred Kaiser as members of the Board of Business Management;

Dr. Oliver K. Maurer and Mr. Clarence Deeg as members of the Commission on Evangelism;

Rev. Robert J. Young and Mrs. John B. Frantz as members of the Commission on Stewardship;

Rev. Carl Burkle as a member of the Commission on World Service;

Rev. Alfred F. Schroeder and Mrs. William D. Powell as members of the Commission on Christian Social Action.

18. The General Council, having been directed by the General Synod to provide for the erection of one new cottage each year for pensioners, refers this matter to the Board of Pensions and Relief and the Committee on Finance and Budget.

19. The General Council favors and approves the presentation in the name of the Evangelical and Reformed Church of a copy of the biography of Bishop Otto Dibelius to each non-American member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches at the meeting in New Haven, Conn., July 30-August 7, 1957, and refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the designation of the source of funds for this purpose.

20. The General Council refers to the Commission on Christian Social Action and the Commission on Church and Ministry, for study and recommendation, the practice of the local church in regard to "mixed marriages" between members of the church and Roman Catholics.

21. Recognizing the unique contribution which could be made by Dr. Theodore A. Distler to the work of the Committee on Formula for Allocations to the Educational Institutions of the Church, the General Council waives in this one instance its requirement that members of this committee have no official connection with any institution involved, and appoints Dr. Distler as chairman of the committee.

22. The General Council discharges the committee named to meet with Rev. Victor P. Wierwille, with its appreciation of their service in this matter.

23. The General Council adopts the statement of function of the Standing Committee on Nominations prepared by Dr. Ben M. Herbst, and refers this statement to the Standing Committee and to the boards, commissions and other agencies of the Church for their guidance.

24. (a) The General Council confirms the approval by the Administrative Committee of privilege of call for Revs. Howard S. Fuller, N. S. Hoffman, Vernon W. Rice, Joseph James Bevilacqua and Fred E. Luchs, the latter two contingent upon favorable recommendations by synodical committees.

(b) The General Council approves for ordination, the respective synods concurring, Daniel T. Winger and Frank Aristides Endrei. ..

25. The General Council confirms the approval by the Administrative Committee of the appointment of Rev. J. Donald Paine as editor of children's publications of the Board of Christian Education and Publication, at a salary of \$4,500 a year, plus housing allowance of \$1,200 a year.

26. The General Council excuses Mr. Joseph C. Wetzel from attendance at this meeting, due to business conflicts, and regrets his absence.

27. The General Council appoints Mrs. Milton C. Lang as its delegate to the Conference on Policy and Strategy of the Churches in Social Welfare, to be held at Atlantic City, May 7-10.

28. (a) The General Council invites the pastor of the Federated Church at Fayette, N. Y. to apply for privilege of call, without surrendering his status as a member of the United Lutheran Church.

(b) The General Council amends its statement of policy regarding federated churches and united churches by adding the provision that a minister from another participating denomination, before being called to a federated church, should apply for privilege of call. In such instance he should not be expected to surrender his ministerial standing in his own denomination.

29. The General Council, recognizing the emergency nature of the financial situation connected with the relocation and new building of Zion Church, Tonawanda, N. Y., urges continued supervision by the West New York Synod and the Board of National Missions, and authorizes waiving the first lien requirement of the Church Building Department of the Board, upon approval of the Executive Committee of the Board and the counselor the Church, for a loan not to exceed \$20,000.

30. The General Council approves the transfer of the Maidencreek Church of the former Kutztown-Blandon Charge from Lehigh Synod to Reading Synod, contingent upon favorable action by Reading Synod.

31. The General Council takes the position that it cannot authorize a loan from the Emergency Reserve Fund to any church or synod for building purposes for the following reasons: (1) the Emergency Reserve Fund was established to guard against the day if and when there should be a drastic collapse of the national economy such as occurred in 1929; (2) in the event of such a collapse, churches which had been lent money from the fund, however sincere their desire to honor their commitments to repay, would doubtless have difficulty in making repayment at the very time when the need had arisen for which the fund was established; and (3) such a disposition of monies in the Emergency Reserve Fund would favor the one cause of National Missions, worthy as it is, in contrast with all the other causes which have an equity in the Reserve Fund and the protection it is designed to provide.

32. The General Council refers to the Administrative Committee and the counselor of the Church for further consideration the recommendation of Mr. Louis H. Goebel concerning the establishment of a non-profit Synod Foundation.

33. The General Council concurs in the appointment of the President of the Church to the Administrative Committee of the Congregational Christian Office of Communication, and authorizes the allocation by the Evangelical and Reformed Church to the budget of this office for the fiscal year 1957-58 of \$16,800, and further suggests to the Committee on Finance and Budget that this allocation be charged against the Union Account in the Budget.

34. The General Council expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Board of Christian Education and Publication for participating in securing satisfactory adjudication of the George A. Garrett estate, and accepts the interpretation given by the court.

35. Taking appreciative cognizance of numerous developments of support for privately financed institutions of higher education, the General Council refers the call of Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President of the National Council of Churches, and that Council's Commission on Christian Higher Education, to our Commission on Higher Education for such degree of implementation as is possible.

36. The General Council receives with appreciation the report of the President on his trip to the Far East, and concurs with his ecumenical point of view. The General Council refers the President's recommendations to the boards, agencies and institutions involved.

37. The General Council, in response to the requests of chaplains, directs the Commission on Church and Ministry to inform the chaplains in the armed forces that where baptized or confirmed career people not originally Evangelical and Reformed are received into the Church, after consultation with the

person involved, the name may be referred, for enrollment in church membership, to the synod within whose bounds he has legal residence, or to one of our churches in the Washington, D. C., area.

38. The General Council receives the report of the Secretary, and in so doing expresses again its appreciation to Dr. Kerschner for his immeasurable service to the Church, and desiring to share with those who were able to attend the luncheon honoring Dr. Kerschner, extends to him and to Mrs. Kerschner our wishes for many years of continued joyful service, in avenues which they will surely find.

HUNGARIAN CHAIR AT ELMHURST COLLEGE

Dr. Stanger, chairman of the Committee on the Hungarian Chair at Elmhurst College, presented a recommendation of the committee that the present basis of support for the Hungarian Chair be continued for the next three years and be subject to review at the end of that period. After a discussion of this matter the General Council VOTED to adopt a substitute motion that the support of the Hungarian Chair terminate at the end of the present scholastic year, which is in June.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET - II

Items 5-11 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget were presented by Mr. Webber. They were acted upon item by item and were adopted. As adopted they are as follows:

5. The Committee on Finance and Budget, having reviewed the report of the Treasurer, recommends its approval by the General Council.

6. The General Council recommends that \$4,500 in legacies from the Estates of Joshua, Frank and David Hain, from Bay, Missouri, be deposited in the National Missions Building Loan Fund as a memorial to the Hain brothers.

7. The General Council recommends that the \$500 legacy from the Minnie Monk Estate, from California, be deposited in the National Missions Building Fund as a memorial.

8. The General Council directs the Department of United Promotion, in conjunction with the Treasurer of the Church, to devise procedures to encourage giving of gifts and legacies to the Church, churches, boards, agencies and institutions. They shall also prepare suitable forms of recognition of gifts and memorials given to boards and agencies, and arrange for proper publicity of their receipt. Gifts to institutions should be acknowledged by said institutions.

9. The General Council notes that the Board of Investments has complied with the directive that it prepare certificates to be issued to boards and agencies which deposit monies with it for investment.

10. The General Council approves the payment of a total of \$72,087.50 for 1957 to the synods and the area that have full-time presidents. This amount includes \$1,511.50 to Kansas City Synod, \$1,359.00 to Southern Synod, \$274.50 to Texas Synod, and \$6,442.50 to the West Coast Area, as supplemental subsidies to the \$2,500 subsidy provided for the synods and the area that have full-time presidents.

11. The Committee on Finance and Budget requests the General Council to give the Administrative Committee power to select and employ, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, an Assistant Treasurer.

PENSIONS AND RELIEF

Dr. Bittner presented the following report on behalf of the Board of Pensions and Relief:

1. Treasurer Keck has made payment of \$2,492.32 to be credited as 8% premiums on base salaries of \$2,000.00 for 17 chaplains in the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund for the year 1956.

2. The Lay Workers' Prior Service Plan had no retirements or withdrawals during the year. The account was credited with 3% interest for the year, and reserves as of January 31, 1957 are \$34,149.73.

3. Five widows received insurance checks of \$1,000.00; seven received checks of \$500.00; and 14 received checks of \$200.00, making a total of \$11,300.00 to 26 widows.

4. We are happy to report that the assets of the Board are now over twelve million dollars.

5. The General Synod resolution requesting congregations to give favorable consideration to paying the total 11% premium to the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund has received hearty response throughout the Church.

It was VOTED to receive this report with the thanks and good wishes of the General Council.

The evening session was concluded with a moment of silent prayer, followed by a prayer offered by Dr. Wentzel.

Wednesday, February 6

At 8:45 a.m. the members and advisory members of the General Council participated in a worship service led by Dr. Schmidt.

For the remainder of the morning and throughout the afternoon the General Council met as committees.

In the evening the Council was entertained at a dinner held at Philippus Church and attended by a large gathering of Evangelical and Reformed pastors and lay people.

At the conclusion of the dinner President Wagner delivered an address upon his recent visit to the Far East. He then presented the members of the General Council to the audience, following which he introduced the president of Southwest Ohio Synod, Rev. Clarence K. Gebhart, and various ministers of the synod who were present.

The pastor of Philippus Church, Rev. William J. Witt, introduced several Congregational Christian pastors who had been invited to attend the dinner.

A brief business session of the General Council was held.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

The report of the Committee on Publication was presented by the chairman, Dr. Erwin R. Koch. Item 1 was amended and adopted as amended. Item 2 was adopted without change.

The report as adopted is as follows:

1. It is the hope of the Committee on Publication that the directive of the General Synod to continue Der Friedensbote can be carried out. However, if an emergency should arise that Rev. Otto Press cannot continue as editor, the Committee on Publication requests authorization to meet the emergency in consultation with the Administrative Committee and the Board of Business Management.

2. The Committee on Publication requests Rev. Otto Press to secure information concerning the German language paper in the Congregational Christian Churches.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET - III

Items 12-16 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget were presented by Mr. Webber. All except item 13 were adopted. Action upon item 13 was deferred until the fall meeting of the Council. On Thursday morning, however, this item was taken under consideration and a substitute for it was adopted.

Items 12-16, as adopted, are as follows:

12. The Committee on Finance and Budget recommends to the General Council that \$38,000 of the 1956 overage be designated toward paying the expenses of printing and shipping the ADVANCE brochure, Christ Calls to Faith and Action - NOW! We further recommend that the cooperating boards and agencies accept responsibility for paying for the new fall 1957 brochure (estimated to cost \$20,000), which will probably be prepared in conjunction with The Messenger.

13. The General Council expresses its high appreciation of the work that is being done for the Church by the Board of Investments, but believes that as a matter of principle the operating expenses of the Board should be paid for out of the return on the investments.

14. The General Council approves the following investment policy for the Board of Investments:

Group I--United States Government Bonds, Real Estate Mortgages and
Secured Corporate Bonds: a minimum of.....45%
Group II--Corporate Debentures and Preferred Stocks: a maximum of...20%
Group III - Common Stocks: a maximum of.....35%

The General Synod recommended the General Council's consideration to reverse the first and third percentages, but we do not recommend this change.

15. The General Council approves the following schedule for the distribution of the 1956 apportionment overage:

ADVANCE brochure, <u>Christ Calls to Faith and Action - NOW!</u>	\$38,000.00
National Council - <u>Exchange visit with Russian church leaders</u>	1,000.00
World Council - <u>Headquarters building, Geneva, Switzerland</u>	9,025.00
Supplementary Higher Education Fund.....	75,000.00
Unallocated.....	157,724.25
	<u>\$280,749.25</u>

This unallocated amount is being held due to the fact that our recommended guaranteed advance for 1957 is more than one million dollars higher than the guaranteed advance for 1956. We feel it would be wise to hold this unallocated amount in the Surplus Account until we have some knowledge of the financial acceptance of the new triennial budget.

16. The General Council directs the Board of National Missions to repay its \$62,500 note, account of the Park Forest Church, during the present triennium.

Thursday, February 7, 1957

The General Council was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Prayer was offered by Dr. Theodore C. Braun.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE MERGER OF "THE MESSENGER" AND "ADVANCE"

Dr. Wagner appointed Dr. Dearborn and Dr. Schmidt to serve with Dr. Koch as the Evangelical and Reformed members of the joint committee which is to arrange for the merger of The Messenger and Advance.

FALL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Dr. Wagner reminded the General Council that the fall meeting is to be held at St. Paul, Minn., Tuesday-Thursday, September 17-19. He urged all members and advisory members of the Council to plan to arrive at St. Paul in time to fill pulpit engagements on Sunday, September 15.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET - IV

As previously recorded, the General Council reversed its decision to defer action upon item 13 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget and adopted a substitute for this item.

Mr. Webber then completed his presentation of the committee's report by reading items 17 and 18. Dr. Bittner offered a substitute for item 17 and the Committee on Finance and Budget accepted this in place of the original item. The substitute for item 17 was adopted. Item 18 also was adopted.

As adopted, items 17 and 18 are as follows:

17. The General Council establishes \$4,000 as the annual base pay for qualified military chaplains upon which it will pay the 8% premium to the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund provided the chaplain has paid his 3%.

18. The General Council approves the following guaranteed advance for the 1957 fiscal year:

	Budget 1957-1959	Guaranteed Advance 1956	Guaranteed Advance 1957
International Missions.....	\$1,009,000.....	\$690,000.....	\$830,000
National Missions.....	900,000.....	610,000.....	730,000
National Missions, Building Fund.....	450,000.....	120,000.....	370,000
Pensions and Relief.....	761,000.....	475,000.....	690,000
Pensions and Relief, Pastors' Homes.....	4,800.....	10,000.....	10,000
Christian Education and Publication..	334,000.....	200,000.....	280,000
Eden Seminary.....	85,915.....	74,224.....	85,915
Lancaster Seminary.....	63,915.....	52,224.....	63,915
Mission House Seminary.....	(31,467.....	58,224.....	31,467
Lakeland College.....	(48,448.....		46,208
Elmhurst College.....	86,436.....	77,666.....	83,916
Heidelberg College.....	54,726.....	45,956.....	52,206
Cedar Crest College.....	49,436.....	40,666.....	46,916
Catawba College.....	49,436.....	40,666.....	46,916
Ursinus College.....	43,436.....	34,666.....	40,916
Franklin and Marshall College.....	43,436.....	34,666.....	40,916
Hood College.....	39,936.....	31,166.....	37,416
Massanutten Academy.....	21,718.....	17,333.....	20,458
Mercersburg Academy.....	21,718.....	17,333.....	20,458
Churchmen's Brotherhood.....	8,000.....	8,000.....	8,000
Women's Guild.....	2,000.....	2,000.....	2,000
Evangelism.....	45,000.....	30,000.....	40,000
Christian Social Action.....	59,500.....	38,000.....	50,000
Stewardship.....	27,500.....	13,500.....	21,000
Higher Education.....	5,000.....	2,500.....	3,500
Church and Ministry.....	61,500.....	38,000.....	50,000
Subsidy, Synod Presidents.....	75,000.....	65,000.....	75,000
Benevolent Institutions.....	5,000.....	1,000.....	2,500
Historical Commission.....	5,000.....	1,800.....	3,500
Synods' Travel Expense.....	4,500.....	3,500.....	3,000
Student Loans.....	90,000.....	60,000.....	75,000
United Promotion.....	100,000.....	64,000.....	95,000
United Pro.: Visual Aids, Radio, TV..	95,000.....	58,000.....	60,000
Administration Fund.....	159,000.....	135,000.....	125,000
Church Union.....	50,000.....		40,000
Messenger Subsidy.....		57,000.....	61,600
Messenger Promotion)		5,000.....	5,000
Lapja Subsidy)		12,180.....	13,300
Friedensbote Subsidy)	130,000	13,000.....	14,300
Business Management)		10,000.....	15,800
National Council of Churches.....	12,846.....	10,000.....	12,846
World Council of Churches.....	12,500.....	10,000.....	12,500
Alliance of Reformed Churches.....	3,800.....	2,400.....	3,800
Chaplains' Pensions.....	4,831.....	2,000.....	4,800
Ecumenical Travel.....	15,000.....		8,000
Contingent Fund.....	35,000.....	10,320.....	15,000
Total.....	\$5,100,000.....	\$3,276,790.....	\$4,348,069

FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE CHURCH PAPERS

Dr. Kienle expressed his opinion that the guaranteed advances for the Church papers should be revised upward. The General Council approved a

suggestion that the Board of Business Management, with the assistance of the staff of The Messenger and the editors of Der Friedensbote and Reformatusk Lapja, prepare an estimate of the amounts needed to finance these papers and present it at the fall meeting of the General Council. This estimate should include the reserve for unexpired subscriptions.

DRAWING ACCOUNT FOR THE SECRETARY

The General Council VOTED to provide a drawing account of \$2,500 for the expenses of the office of the Secretary of the Church. It was understood that Dr. Mackey should not be required to return his present drawing account of \$1,000, but that this amount should be added to the present \$1,500 drawing account of the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRELATION AND PROMOTION

The report of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion was presented by the chairman, Dr. Haas. Item 1 was received as information. Items 9 and 15 were amended and adopted as amended. All other items were adopted without change.

The report as adopted is as follows:

1. In compliance with a directive of the General Council that a conference be held for the purpose of formulating a policy and plan of action in regard to the matter of union churches, the Administrative Assistant was requested to call this meeting. The conference was held at Harrisburg, Pa., on January 21, 1957, and was attended by the presidents of the nine synods in which there are union churches, by Drs. Limbert and Mackey as representatives of the General Council, and by members of the Union Church Committee of the Board of National Missions. The policy agreed upon will be presented to the Commission on the Welfare of the Union Church (E&R-Lutheran). If acted upon favorably by them, it will be presented to the nine synods through their Committees on Town and Country Church, and to the Board of National Missions through its Department of Town and Country Church. This policy will greatly strengthen the hands of our pastors in the union churches.

2. The General Council requests the President of the Church to appoint a Committee on the Program for the Fall Meetings of the Synods.

3. The General Council requests the Committee on the Program for the Fall Meetings of the Synods to consider seriously the matter of a more effective inclusion of the synodical program, as well as the denominational program, in the agenda. Plans for the emphasis on commitment are being worked out by the respective agencies, and tentative suggestions for a poster and flier have been submitted. It has been suggested that the fall meetings of the synods have as their theme the emphasis on commitment and that the programs take into account:

- (a) the problems of synodical interest;
- (b) wide "audience participation" through buzz sessions or other technique;
- (c) varied presentation by zonal representatives.

4. The General Council approves the proposal of the boards and agencies concerning the division of financial responsibility for the production of the special issue of The Messenger on the ADVANCE PROGRAM:

National Missions.....	\$3,500
International Missions.....	2,500
World Service.....	2,500

Pensions and Relief.....	\$2,000
Women's Guild.....	2,000
Educational Institutions.....	2,000
Christian Education.....	1,500
United Promotion.....	1,200
Business Management.....	500
Churchmen's Brotherhood.....	500
Evangelism.....	250
Christian Social Action.....	250
Church and Ministry.....	250
Stewardship.....	250

5. We recommend that Dr. Carl W. Klein be elected as the Director of the Department of United Promotion, to take effect September 1, 1957, and that the Committee on Correlation and Promotion be instructed to define the areas of responsibility for the personnel of the Department of United Promotion.

6. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion, having received the action of the General Council in executive session, accepts the salary increases indicated for the personnel of the Department of United Promotion, but suggests that the salary of the Director of the Department of United Promotion be set at \$6700, effective September 1, 1957.

7. We recommend that Mr. Richard F. Hartzell, Jr., be elected as the Director of the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids at a salary of \$7700, effective June 1, 1957.

8. We report as information that a candidate for the fund-raising work of the Department of United Promotion has been interviewed and is to be further interviewed. In the event that a favorable decision is reached, we recommend that this matter be referred to the Administrative Committee with power.

9. (a) The Committee on Correlation and Promotion has reviewed the reports of the synod presidents with appreciation and interest. Since these reports are still in the formative stage, we suggest that the President of the Church make provision in the agenda for the forthcoming Synod Presidents' Conference for the discussion of a pattern for such reports in the future.

(b) We note that Kansas City Synod is experimenting with a new method of apportionment assessment. We shall await report on the success of this experiment with interest.

(c) We find it would be impossible at this time to accept the suggestion of the president of Lehigh Synod to eliminate the reports of the synod presidents to the General Council.

(d) We refer to the President of the Church, for investigation, item 7 of the report of the president of Texas Synod, though we note with very real interest and appreciation this item in his report.

10. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion reports that it has appointed Dr. L. C. T. Miller to serve as a member of the Commission on Stewardship.

11. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion approves a proposal of the Directors of the Department of United Promotion that a member of the staff of the Department be invited to meet with the respective synod presidents and/or

Synodical Councils and the chairmen of the synodical committees when they plan promotional and field programs of boards and agencies in advance of the zonal year, to help interpret and integrate the plans of the boards and agencies within the synod.

12. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion requests the President of the Church to make provision in the agenda for the forthcoming annual Conference of Synod Presidents for consideration of the question of notifying the Department of United Promotion of the names of supply pastors or lay officers of vacant churches for whom they would request materials from the boards and agencies.

13. Inasmuch as there is at present no money available in the budget of the Department of United Promotion to provide the suggested loose-leaf binder for the basic materials of the boards and agencies of the Church, and being without knowledge of the actual cost, the General Council requests the Department of United Promotion to furnish samples and to provide information regarding the cost. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion expresses the hope that this cost be financed out of the unallocated portion of the overage.

14. The General Council designates Dr. F. A. Keck as the treasurer of the budget of the Audio-Visual Aids account of the Department of United Promotion.

15. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion informs the General Council that only three agencies of the Church have complied with the directive that they submit reports of their activities to the Committee for review and possible recommendation to the General Council. The General Council reaffirms its directive to the agencies of the Church.

16. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that all resignations of staff personnel of boards and agencies of the Church be reported promptly to the President of the Church, who in turn is requested to include these matters in his report to the General Council.

"R" CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Dr. Deitz, representing the committee which is in charge of the liquidation of the "R" Church Building Fund, presented a financial statement of the assets and liabilities of the Fund as of October 31, 1956. (Copy appended)
The report was received as information.

CONTINUATION COMMITTEE OF THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF N. A.

Dr. Goebel stated that the Continuation Committee had not held a meeting within the past twelve months. A meeting will be held as soon as the Treasurer finds it convenient.

REACTIVATION OF CANCELLED OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHAFF BUILDING

The General Council VOTED to empower the Committee on the Reactivation of the Cancelled Obligations of the Schaff Building to authorize the Board of Business Management and the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation to complete the repayment of cancelled obligations according to a plan approved by the committee.

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR VACANT CONGREGATIONS

Dr. Bittner spoke of an action of the 1953 General Synod authorizing "liberalization of the pension policy of the Board of Pensions and Relief whereby the board might cooperate with the presidents of the synods to supply vacant pulpits with retired ministers, who shall not thereby suffer any loss or reduction of pension from the board." (1953 G.S. mins., p. 226, item 4b) He reported that one of the synod presidents had asked if these retired ministers might also be used as supply pastors for vacant congregations, and that the Board of Pensions and Relief felt that this would be permissible, since the ministers would not be paid full salaries by these congregations, but that the Board also was of the opinion that the congregations should pay their apportionments in full. On behalf of the Board of Pensions and Relief he requested official endorsement of this position. The General Council VOTED to adopt a directive to the synod presidents that ministers retired on pensions shall be furnished to vacant congregations as supply pastors only on condition that the congregations have paid their apportionments in full for the year.

NATIONAL COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Council VOTED that since Evangelical and Reformed support of the National Council's Department of Religious Liberty had been channeled through the Commission on Christian Social Action, a member of the Commission should serve as our Church's representative in the Department.

WOMEN'S GUILD

At President Wagner's invitation, Mrs. Benchoff, president of the Women's Guild, spoke of the work of the Guild. She informed the General Council that Miss Louise Auchenbach had resigned as Secretary of Promotion in order to engage in missionary work in Japan, and that Miss Jane Lebold had been chosen as her successor on the staff of the Women's Guild. The General Council VOTED to approve the appointment of Miss Lebold as Secretary of Promotion for the Guild.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

A photograph of the General Council was taken. A suggestion that the cost be defrayed from the Administration Fund and that copies of the picture be made available to members of the Council was approved.

COMMITTEE ON STUDY AND APPRAISAL

Dr. Herbster suggested that the General Council either appoint a new chairman for the Committee on Study and Appraisal or dismiss the committee. The Council, however, agreed to continue the committee, with no change in the chairmanship, until such time as Dr. Herbster might feel some compulsion to call a meeting.

All items of business having been attended to, the General Council VOTED to adjourn.

Dr. Wagner delivered a closing address to the General Council. At its conclusion President Emeritus Goebel briefly addressed the Council.

The Doxology was sung, following which President Emeritus Goebel pronounced the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.

James E. Wagner, Chairman

Sheldon E. Mackey, Secretary

APPENDIX

Report and Supplementary Report of the President

Appendix: President's Schedule, November 1, 1956 - January 31, 1957

Personnel Matters

Privilege of Call; Staff Appointment

Documents Relating to the United Church of Christ:

An Agreement Authorizing Procedures Toward the
Establishment of the Board for Home Missions
of the United Church of Christ

Statement on Possible Procedures Toward the
Integration of the Work of the E&R Board
of International Missions with the Work
of the American Board of Commissioners
for Foreign Missions

Tentative Draft of Proposed Resolution to be Adopted
by the Uniting General Synod Declaring the Union
in Effect (X, B)

Tentative Draft of Proposed Formal Declaration
of the Union

Statement on the Functions of the Standing Committee on
Nominations

Committee and Delegation Personnel

Report on the President's Visit to the Far East

Report of the Treasurer

Financial Statement, "R" Church Building Fund

Reports of the Full-time Presidents of Synods

Report of the President of the West Coast Area

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH

February 5-7, 1957

To the General Council of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church:-

I can hardly begin this report without some reference to my recent visit to the Far East. It will be, however, no more than a reference, reminding you that you have already received a copy of the special report which I prepared on that visit, another copy of which will be included in the bound copies of the minutes of this meeting of the General Council.

I am now scheduled to leave February 26 for a visit to Honduras and Ecuador, returning March 29; and have tentative plans for a trip to India, Iraq and West Africa next November and December. Plans for the latter are subject to change on the basis of several possibilities. It is not impossible that the international situation could change so as to make such a trip inadvisable at that time. Again, if the Central Committee or the next Assembly of the World Council is scheduled to meet in that general area of the world in the coming two or three years, then the economy of both time and money may indicate planning a visit to another area of the Far East and to Africa in connection with such a meeting.

I shall add only one general observation. I now appreciate better than I could have at the time it was made the suggestion of my honored predecessor that I should visit our mission fields as early in my time as President as it was possible for me to do so. The first of these visits has certainly given me a perspective on the world mission of the Christian Church and our part in it which I do not believe could be secured in any other way. It has given me an understanding and appreciation of the situation in which mission work must be carried on, the slowness with which the seed sown bears fruit in the soil of an alien culture and of a secularism counterpart to that in traditionally Christian lands, and a glimpse of the problems and frustrations which must try the souls of our missionaries. On the other hand, I have come back from this first trip with an enhanced recognition of the faithful and persistent work of our missionaries, and with fresh courage and hope and assurance born of unmistakable signs of the fact that God's Word does not return unto Him void, and that the witness of past years is reflected in devout and steadfast Christian communities among the people native to the various lands to which this first visit took me.

The Hungarian Tragedy

Without doubt the one situation which has touched Christian hearts most deeply in recent months is the tragedy in Hungary which began in the October revolt against the Communist regime and the Russian Government to which the government of Hungary has been an easily manipulated puppet. The revolt appears to have begun with college and university students who were quickly joined by miners, farmers and industrial workers, and almost as quickly by elements of the Hungarian army itself. While it lasted this revolt was the most eloquent testimony of this century to two great facts:- that there comes a time when the human spirit can endure no further stultification of its fundamental moral nature and when it recognizes that the risk of death is preferable to the further compromise of freedom and decency; and that not even

ten long years of the steady drumming of Communist indoctrination could really convert a people, and most significantly its youth, to its avowed denial of God, its exaltation of the State as sovereign over all else, or to its illusory promises of political and economic salvation. Thousands upon thousands of Hungarians are dead, and other thousands reportedly transported to the living death of slave labor; but they have left this testimony to a generation which was beginning to believe something less of human nature.

The first week of November witnessed Soviet Russia moving to crush the revolt in Hungary with a ruthlessness the only counterpart to which in this century was the purge of Jews under Hitler.

While the revolt was at its height significant changes took place in the church life of Hungary, according to the best reports available. Cardinal Mindzenty was freed although he has since taken refuge in the American embassy in Budapest. Lutheran Bishops Iaszlo Dezsery and Lajos Veto were ousted and Bishop Lajos Ordass reinstated as leader of this confessional group in Hungary. In like manner, Reformed Bishops John Peter and Albert Bereczky,- the latter reported seriously ill,- resigned under pressure; and Reformed Church work is now headed up by Bishop Ladislas Ravasz and Dean Iaszlo Pap,- a reversal which is not surprising to many of us. Bishop Ravasz had been forced to retire by the Communist regime. I mention these changes in Hungarian Protestant leadership because we should be remembering in our prayers those on whom the responsibilities of leadership have now descended, for theirs is a delicate and dangerous position.

Our more immediate and practical concern was with the flood of refugees who made their way over the border into Austria. At the end of the first week of January their number was estimated at more than 162,000. By executive action which deserves our highest commendation, President Eisenhower lifted immigration restrictions so that the United States might take its appropriate place with other countries in opening doors for the resettlement of these refugees. By January 3 a total of 9,700 had been brought to America by plane, other thousands by ship, and sentiment was gathering favoring the Administration's apparent intention to increase, beyond the 21,500 figure previously set, the number of these refugees who would be welcomed to America.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church, its sympathies made all the more sympathetic because of the Hungarian constituency in our fellowship as well as by our historic ties with Reformed Protestants in Hungary, has moved toward ministries to these refugees along many lines.

Many of our churches, perhaps more particularly our Hungarian churches although not they alone, have received refugees into their midst, taking the necessary first steps to provide housing, sustenance, jobs and eventual integration into a new life here in America.

As soon as news of the tragedy broke upon the West our Commission on World Service made an initial gift of \$5,000 available through Church World Service for use in Austria.

On November 13,- the last day before I was to leave on my tour of the Far East,- I was visited in my office by President Stephen M. Bessemer, of our Magyar Synod, and Dr. Alexander Toth. I wrote a long letter that same day to our Dr. Helfferich urging that several suggestions presented by these brethren be put into effect as soon as possible.

One tangible result was that on November 30 the Rev. Arpad Beretz, pastor of our Hungarian Church at Wallingford, Connecticut, was commissioned and on December 5 flew from Idlewild Airport, New York, for Vienna, as part of a 3-man team sent out by Church World Service to assist in processing and ministering to this increasing flood of refugees.

Two weeks later, on December 20, the Rev. Imre Bertalan, pastor of our Hungarian Church in Passaic, New Jersey, was assigned to serve half of each day as official representative of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where refugees from Hungary have been received.

Our people have been responding generously to this new need. The best evidence of this is that, whereas for several months World Service contributions had not been keeping pace with those received at the corresponding time a year ago, contributions have now shot up to a point where without doubt our Treasurer will report the largest amount received for a number of years.

We shall want to commend the Commission on moving quickly and effectively to aid in this situation, and our people for their generous response with resources to sustain our continuing efforts both for refugees from and those who have remained in Hungary and stand in desperate need of food, medicines and clothing which we will want to help provide insofar as the door is open for such help to be given.

One Hungarian refugee clergyman has already made application to enter our ministry. He may be the forerunner of others who will do so. This poses a problem for us as to how, for their sakes and the sake of our American Hungarian churches, we can most effectively integrate them into our ministry. They cannot help but be utterly unfamiliar with the nature and method of church life in America. They will likely, as in this first instance, admit that while they know some English they are not yet at the point where they could preach in this language with ease; and since most of our Hungarian congregations are now accustomed to a bi-lingual ministry this also poses a problem. It would seem that General Council should adopt a policy requiring of any of these refugee ministers three things:- (1) that they indicate their willingness and intent to become citizens of the United States; (2) that they accept placement for a period of at least one year as an assistant or associate pastor with a pastor now serving one of our Hungarian charges, the charge assuming, as one of its contributions to the aid of refugees, responsibility for housing and subsidizing the refugee pastor and his family if he has a family; and (3) that under the guidance of the pastor primarius and of the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Magyar Synod the refugee minister undertake a regular process of re-orientation through counselling and prescribed reading in Evangelical and Reformed history and traditions.

The Struggle Over Desegregation

Our own country still wrestles with one of its great problems in human relations,- desegregation in the public schools and in other public facilities but the former more particularly as an aftermath of the 1954 decision of the Supreme Court. One of our own pastors, the Rev. Theodore A. Braun, pastor of Zion Church, Henderson, Kentucky, and son of the honored editor of The Messenger, found himself close to a tension situation in Sturgis, Kentucky, where in association with a Presbyterian minister also of Henderson he conducted himself in a manner reflecting the best traditions of the Christian

ministry in both its prophetic and its reconciling aspects. A letter of greetings and encouragement was sent to him in behalf of our whole Church in the belief that our people generally would endorse and commend his actions in this situation.

The passing weeks have brought a succession of reactions indicating that the wisdom of the recent General Synod's decisions on current issues in race relations is recognized and approved by our people. We have reason to believe, particularly, that Evangelical and Reformed people below the Mason-Dixon Line recognize that the General Synod could have taken actions no less definitive than it did take in this field, and that it did so, on the one hand, without any appearance of "reading out of the Church" our brethren and sisters in the South, while, on the other hand, giving evidence of our fellowship and sympathy with them as they attempt to meet with Christian conscience and spirit the problems incident to deeply-rooted racial ideas and conventions prevailing in the areas in which they live.

We can be especially gratified at the reception which has been given to the statement on "A Christian Approach to Race Relations" which was prepared by our Commission on Christian Social Action and adopted by the General Synod. This, too, is notable for its prophetic assertions balanced by its priestly concern. The statement has now been published in leaflet form for study purposes, and is having a wide distribution.

Shortly before beginning the writing of this report my eye was taken by a summary reported by Roscoe Drummond whom I have come to think of as one of our more responsible Washington correspondents. In a New Year column he reproduced the substance of "the record of progress in civil rights from 1948 to 1957" as this record had been compiled by the American Jewish Committee in New York.

"Its central fact," says Mr. Drummond, "is that during the past nine years there have been 298 separate, solid, significant actions--judicial, legislative, administrative and voluntary--taken by Federal, State and municipal government and private groups all advancing and securing equal rights of citizenship in the following ways:

"Presidential orders that paved the way for integration in the armed services.

"State and local laws barring discrimination on the job, in public housing, and in tax-supported colleges.

"Court rulings outlawing racial segregation in public schools and in a wide variety of public accommodations.

"Spontaneous actions of private citizens and groups to further political equality.

"Here are some of the steps which show American democracy in action, demonstrating that it has within itself the seeds of adaptation and change and self-reform:

"U.S. Supreme Court sets aside death sentence of Georgia Negro because jury was chosen on racial basis.

"Democratic State primaries opened to Negroes in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas.

"U.S. Supreme Court rules compulsory segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

"Moves toward desegregation are initiated in close to 1,000 school districts and units in Southern and Border States. By October, 1956, desegregation is under way in 797 school districts affecting 319,000 Negro and 2,000,000 white children. Some 110 of 208 tax-supported Southern colleges now admit Negro students.

"Poll of 15,000 Southern college teachers reveals that 70 per cent favor integration in professional and graduate schools.

"Big league baseball teams start using Negro players and Pacific Coast League hires first Negro umpire.

"Federal District Court removes last restriction on the right of American Indians to vote.

"Miami erases color line in its library.

"Southern Presbyterian Church votes to absorb colored Presbyteries in white Synods.

"National Press Club elects first Negro member."

And the Committee which made the survey is reported to have made this comment:

"Time and patience will be required to change practices that have long been the only accepted pattern for millions of Americans. But each passing year makes it increasingly clear that the clock will not be turned back--that America will continue its ever forward march toward 'one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'"

While the Evangelical and Reformed Church will continue its witness to the imperatives of brotherhood, it is good to retain such a perspective which testifies so strongly that the gospel which proclaims that Christ died for all men and that every human being is precious in the heavenly Father's sight has not been preached in vain.

Herbert W. Beutel

As this report turns now to matters close at home note must be taken of the passing of Herbert W. Beutel, first elected to General Council by the General Synod of 1950, and re-elected by the General Synod last September for a second six-year term. Elder Beutel was a member of St. Paul's Church, Dallas, Texas, had served there at various times as president of the congregation, teacher of the Men's Bible Class, superintendent of the Sunday Church School, chairman of the Kingdom Roll Call, and as an active member of the Churchmen's Brotherhood. At the time of his death he was Vice-President and General Manager of the Mosher Steel Company in Dallas where for years, out in the shop with employees of the company, he had taught a weekly Bible class in which he expounded the Sunday School lesson for the following Sunday. He was the first president of the Greater Dallas Council of Churches. As a member of the General Council he served on the Committee on Finance and Budget. Most notably he did what many of us have wished men of his type would do in such organizations as the National Council of Churches:- he sat with us in counsel, shared the give and take of viewpoints on Christian concerns in church and society, did not always agree with positions finally adopted but, because he had shared the fellowship and in the exchange of ideas, accepted decisions taken because he knew they grew out of our basic commitment to the Gospel of Christ. We will miss him greatly. Flowers and appropriate expressions of sympathy were sent at the time of his death to his wife and family.

In electing his successor as a member of General Council, the Council may wish to know that three other laymen received substantial but not majority votes at the recent General Synod, strength of their vote in the order in which they are named:- J. Milton Rasche, Iowa Synod; Carl G. F. Bosch, Kansas City Synod; and Dr. Marlyn A. Rader, East Pennsylvania Synod. The Council may wish also to consider in this connection the geographical distribution of its membership.

Merger of Iowa and Nebraska Synods

Plans are moving forward for the merger of the Iowa and Nebraska Synods. Articles of Agreement have been drawn up as follows:

1. The name of the Synod shall be Mid-West Synod.
2. The boundaries of the Sections are to be left as they have been: North-East, East Central, South East, North-West, West Central, South-West.
3. The President of the Synod shall be allowed seven cents for mileage.
4. For Committee Meetings six cents per mile shall be allowed.
5. For Synod meetings the allowance shall be three cents per mile with one cent additional for each passenger.
6. The Synod shall have the following Committees with the indicated number of members in each:
 - Christian Education Committee, 12 members (9 pastors, 3 laymen), with chairmen for Youth, Children, Camp and Conference, Campus Ministry, Missionary Education, Adult Education, Higher Education.
 - Church and Ministry Committee, nine members (six pastors, 3 laymen).
 - United Promotion, eight members (5 pastors, 3 laymen), with chairmen for World Service, Visual Aids, Stewardship.
 - Christian Action, six members (4 pastors, 2 laymen), with chairmen for Social Action, Evangelism, Pensions and Relief.
 - Missions Committee, nine members (6 pastors, 3 laymen), with chairmen for National Missions, International Missions, Rural Church.
 - One Committee each for the following Benevolent Institutions:
 - Evangelical Hospital, Child Welfare Association Board, Fort Wayne Children's Home Board, Good Samaritan Home Board, Quincy, Illinois, Winnebago Benevolent Corporation Board.
 - Blake's Grove Camp Board.

Plans further provide as follows:

"After separate meetings of Iowa and Nebraska Synods on the morning of May 15, 1957, the two groups will meet in joint session at which time the following Resolution will be presented: Be it resolved that the Nebraska and the Iowa Synod hereby be combined to form the Mid-West Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, said Synod to be the continuing body of the two former Synods.

"This action shall be in effect as of July 1, 1957, at which time newly-elected officers and committee members - elected at the joint meeting of Nebraska and Iowa Synods May 15-17, 1957, shall take office and assume their duties. The treasuries of the Nebraska and Iowa Synods shall be unified as of July 1, 1957, but the previous assessments and commitments of said Synods shall be in effect until December 31, 1957. The present Synodical Councils of the Nebraska and Iowa Synods shall serve as continuing Committees to finish any necessary business of their former Synod."

A synodical budget of \$35,180 was adopted for the new Synod, including \$12,680 for the President's Office, the latter budget composed of these items: salary, \$6,000; housing allowance, \$1,200; pension, \$480; office expense, \$1,000; travel, hotel, meals, \$2,000; contingent, \$2,000.

The effective date of the merger, July 1, 1957, was determined upon perhaps mainly in order not to disturb the existing delegations to the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Historical Society and Historical Committee

Pursuant to favorable action by the 1956 General Synod initial steps have been taken toward expansion of the Historical Society to become "the official historical agency of the entire denomination" and "official custodian of the historical records of the entire denomination, which are now housed in the Fackenthal Library at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri". At a joint meeting held November 26, 1956, action was taken organizing "the board of management for the Historical Committee and the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church" with the following officers: President, Dr. David Dunn; Vice-President, Dr. Carl E. Schneider; Treasurer, Dr. Charles D. Spotts; and Secretary, Dr. Paul N. Crusius; these officers constituting the Executive Committee.

It was voted to request the General Council "to transfer the sum allotted to the work of the Historical Committee and of the Historical Society, namely, five thousand dollars per annum, in monthly installments beginning January 1, 1957, to the Treasurer of the board of management".

If, as the actions of General Synod and the deliberations leading up to them seem to indicate, the expanded Historical Society is intended to supersede the Historical Committee effective in 1959, further consideration should be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Matters with a view to (1) appropriate revision of By-Law 127b (125b in tentative new numbering), and (2) some definition of the relationship of the Historical Society to the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Lakeland College

That sub-heading will be a reminder to General Council members that the former Mission House College, as one step in carrying out its procedures toward accreditation, is now operating officially under the new name of Lakeland College. Its President, in acknowledging remittance from Treasurer Keck of the check for \$65,000 special grant authorized by the 1956 General Synod, writes as follows:

"May I express our deep and sincere thanks to you, to the members of the General Council, and to our Church at large for this most helpful assistance on our way to accreditation. We have used fifty thousand to pay off indebtedness, which wipes out all bank indebtedness and all private debts with the exception of two smaller amounts that we expect may become gifts. Thanks to gifts from many others, we have paid off a total of \$110,000.

"May I bring you up to date regarding accreditation. On July 1st we handed in our Self-Study to the North Central Association. In November we were

"informed that the Board of Review had postponed a visit to our campus, pending our gaining experience as a separate college. They were under the impression that we were becoming a 'community' college, because we expressed our moving in the direction of tying ourselves more closely to the community for support, etc. Six of us, representing the Board, Associate Board, administration and faculty, made a trip to Chicago in December, to talk things over with a representative of North Central. We found their misconception, cleared the atmosphere and were told that we could re-apply this next year if we felt we were ready to speak for a separate college. It is our plan to revise our report, get in even better readiness for examination, and re-apply. We expect that we may call in an 'expert' to give us a 'dry run' this spring. We feel pretty good about our situation, and hope we can come up to standards."

Certainly General Council will want to commend and encourage Lakeland College as it moves on toward accreditation and to greater service to the Church.

Overture from Commission on World Service

Recently the Administrative Committee considered an inquiry from the President of Magyar Synod expressing concern about strengthening the relationship of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Buenos Aires with our Church. Action was deferred pending the securing of further information. Meanwhile, the minutes of the November 8-9 meeting of the Commission on World Service were received and as a result there is brought before us an intimation of the larger problem of these and other Reformed people in South America. Precipitated largely by the report of the Rev. Rodney Heckman whom the Commission had sent on an exploratory visit to Brazil and Argentina, the following overture to General Council was adopted:

"Whereas, the Commission on World Service at its meeting in St. Louis on November 8 and 9, 1956, received a report from one of its members, the Rev. Mr. Rodney Heckman, concerning the serious plight in which some 300,000 Hungarian Evangelicals in South America find themselves and indicating further that three out of four persons in Latin America are without church affiliation, and

"Whereas, the vast interiors of Brazil and Argentina with their poverty and promise are a challenge to our Christian compassion and concern, and

"Whereas, the Commission feels that the whole South American problem with particular reference to the situation of the Evangelicals and non-church affiliated natives is in need of restudy from the standpoint of the relationship of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to the problems presented:

"Now Therefore, the General Council, as a matter of initiation of an action program for the South American situation, is overtured as follows:

"1. That the General Council should appoint a small study committee to investigate on the scene the tremendous opportunity presented to the Evangelical and Reformed Church to perform a Christian witness in South America both on an emergency and long term basis. This committee should have representation from the Board of International Missions and the Commission on World Service.

"2. That the committee be directed to proceed as expeditiously as possible to survey the South American situation and prepare a report for General Council which can be used as the basis for concrete proposals for action on a co-operative basis between the Board of International Missions and Commission on World Service within the frame-work of suggested relationships as determined by the General Council."

This overture merits our most serious and most receptive consideration. If, as without doubt can be anticipated, such an on-the-scene study confirms a very real need which should be met and an equally real opportunity for evangelical Christian witness in South America, this overture specifically presupposes the unified approach of Board and Commission to overseas action and service which will implement the agreements of the August 30 consultation endorsed by the General Council at its meeting last October. It would seem that travel and other expenses incident to this study should be appropriately pro-rated between Board, Commission and the General Council.

Guaranteed Advance for 1957

One of General Council's major responsibilities at its February meeting is the setting of the Guaranteed Advance for the fiscal year just beginning. This responsibility is even more serious and difficult at the beginning of a new triennium when decision must be made not only on the basis of receipts for the previous year but on reasonable expectations of the increase which can be expected in contributions received on an increased Kingdom Service Apportionment. There is an element of risk involved in whatever increase in contributions is assumed; but it must not be forgotten that there is also an element of venturesome faith predicated in part on the unfailing way our people have responded year after year, triennium after triennium, to a steadily increasing Apportionment.

The Board of International Missions at its November 15-16 meeting took the following action:

"In view of the action of General Synod in limiting the apportionment increase for the work of International Missions to 11%, less than 1/3 the increase made in the total apportionment for 1957-58-59; and in view, further, of the inability of the Board of International Missions to meet more than one-half of the urgent needs for capital and non-recurring funds for projects in our seven fields, though we exhaust all of our reserve funds in so doing, it was VOTED to sincerely petition General Council to increase the guaranteed advance to the Board of International Missions for 1957-58-59 to at least 85% of the Board's apportionment allocation."

While most of the budgetary requests of the Boards, Commissions and other agencies have quite properly been directed to the Committee on Finance and Budget through its chairman, copies of several of them have come to my desk.

The Board of National Missions has prepared a tentative budget presupposing income for operational purposes, not including the Church Building account, in the amount of \$770,000 on the General Synod Budget of \$900,000, which would amount to 85 per cent; and in the Church Building account, \$375,000 on the budgeted amount of \$450,000, which would be 83 per cent.

The Board of Christian Education and Publication presents a carefully detailed document undergirding its urgent request for a minimum of \$300,000 on its allocation of \$334,000 in the budget, which would be 87 per cent.

If, as may be supposed, these requests are typical, there is a solemn responsibility upon us to consider whether, between the needs of our agencies, the response of our people and the reasonable and confident expectations we may have of them for the days ahead, - whether we can afford to do less than set the Guaranteed Advance at 85 per cent of the Budget and then let our people know that, assured largely by their generous and growing stewardship, we have performed this act of faith.

It would mean setting the Guaranteed Advance at a total of \$4,335,000, compared with apportionment receipts for the past year which on January 14 totalled \$3,419,505 and which Treasurer Keck felt confident would exceed by \$100,000 the total of \$3,450,810 contributed by our people in 1955.

The Union

Steps looking toward consummation of the union between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches continue to move forward with accelerating pace. This section of the President's Report is being written before the January 23-24 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, out of which may conceivably come something requiring action here; otherwise, recommendations from that Committee will come before General Council when it meets jointly with the Congregational Christian Executive Committee on February 21-22. Members of General Council, it is hoped, will give this February meeting utmost priority in their schedules, and probably we should hold ourselves in readiness for further calls to meet as we move nearer the time for the Uniting General Synod.

Probably the most encouraging developments since last we met are found in that the homeland agencies and the foreign mission boards of the two communions have succeeded in negotiating agreements as to procedures toward unification which are believed to be in harmony with the Basis of Union and which, to those of us from the Evangelical and Reformed Church who have studied them, seem not to violate the minimum considerations which we have felt had to be provided for.

Copies of these two documents are included as appendices to this report in what should be understood are tentatively final drafts subject to editorial revisions. The Administrative Committee has already, in behalf of General Council as authorized at our October meeting (Minutes, p. 8), approved the agreement "to authorize the procedures toward the establishment of the Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ". Sub-committees negotiating "Steps and Intermediate Stages by Which the Work of the Board of International Missions.... Might Be Integrated with That of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions" have agreed on this document subject to approval by their respective primary bodies which in the case of the Evangelical and Reformed committee would include the Board and the General Council. It would seem proper, if General Council sees fit, to approve this document contingent on concurring action by the Board.

Another development of the 3-day joint meeting in Atlantic City in November, participated in by representatives of counterpart homeland agencies, is reflected in this paragraph of the report of the Findings Committee:

"We recognize the enormous value of one major journal in the United Church as a needed symbol of our new unity, in many places perhaps to be the only such symbol and evidence. We believe that this union of THE MESSENGER and ADVANCE ought to take place as near the time of the actual constituting of the United Church of Christ as possible. Steps ought to be taken at once by responsible boards looking forward to this consolidation. We feel that the major role of such a journal in the life of the United Church is such that it can command the fullest and most imaginative use of the combined resources of our present journals."

On the basis of this finding, the Board of Business Management at a recent meeting took the following action:

"Be it resolved:

"1. That the Board of Business Management appoint three members of its Church Paper Committee and ask the General Council to appoint three members of its Committee on Publications to represent the Evangelical and Reformed Church, together with the editor of THE MESSENGER, on a joint committee to make plans for an official journal for the United Church of Christ;

"2. That we ask the Pilgrim Press Division of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches to appoint six persons who, together with the editor of ADVANCE, will represent the Congregational Christian Churches on the joint committee;

"3. That the joint committee meet as early as possible in 1957 and that if it is necessary it be permitted to invite outside resource leaders and professional counselors.

"4. That Drs. (Theodore C.) Braun and Andrew V. McCracken of the Congregational Christian Churches be the conveners of this meeting."

Dr. Robert C. Kienle, President of the Board of Business Management, reports appointment of Mr. Carl J. Bender, Mr. William C. Mingle, and Dr. Henry I. Stahr as members of the joint committee representing the Board's Church Paper Committee. General Council should act on the above resolutions, and, if approving, authorize appointment of three members of our Committee on Publications to serve on the joint committee.

One problem typical of several which have risen in the recent past is reflected in an inquiry received recently from one of our Synod Presidents. Referring to one of our theological seminary seniors he asks:

"1. If he should become an assistant minister in a Congregational Christian Church after his graduation, could he remain in the Evangelical and Reformed Church and (yet) have standing in the Congregational Christian Churches?

"2. Inasmuch as he received student aid, if he were to 'join' the Congregational Christian Churches, would he be obligated to repay the loan?"

As this Synod President himself suggests, a strict interpretation of the Omaha and Lancaster resolutions providing for continuation of the present structures of the two communions would seem to indicate a negative answer to the first question, an affirmative answer to the second. On the other hand, some of us have already had to think about the possibility that, subsequent to the Uniting General Synod, and to begin to give substance to what it symbolizes, we shall have to consider (1) some possible form of ordination which, by a judicatory of whichever constituent communion it is administered, will be recognized as ordination for and eligibility to ministry in the United Church of Christ without submission to such pre-requisites as our Privilege of Call procedure, and (2) corresponding liberalization of procedures in the free exchange of ministers already in service, with (3) also corresponding revision of requirements such as those pertaining to student loans. Expressions of judgment now from General Council would be proper and helpful, although this general area of concern will likely come before us at the joint meeting in February.

Two additional union items must have the attention of General Council at this session. First has to do with designation of our complement of 15 on the Nominating Committee of 30 which is to serve the Uniting General Synod. It would seem desirable to include in our complement the names of the seven members of the Standing Committee on Nominations (By-Law 87-i). They are: the Revs. Willard A. Kratz, D.D., Ruben J. Bierbaum, Paul N. Blaufuss, and Henry C. Koch, D.D.; and Mr. Carl J. Bender, Miss Frances Kapitzky, and Mr. Allen Wolff. At my request the chairman of the 1956 General Synod's Committee suggested the following names of those from that committee who might be helpful in our complement of the Uniting General Synod's committee, and from among whom we should probably choose four pastors and four lay members:- the Revs. Walter Baumgartner, R. G. Beck, John W. Flucke, D.D., Gerhard W. Grauer, D.D., Henry G. Kroehler, John G. Mueller, George A. Smith and Paul B. Snead; and these laymen, August Burchardt, Roderic A. Dietz, Karl Y. Donecker, Mark L. Robb, Herbert J. Schairbaum, Burton E. Seiple and Joseph C. Wetzel.

The other item concerns the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, comparable to the General Council in our structure. The Basis of Union (IV-I) provides that "for the interim between the effecting of the union and the adoption of the constitution, the membership of the Executive Council shall be twenty-four, with equal representation of the uniting communions".

The Joint Meeting of our General Council and the Congregational Christian Executive Committee on April 5, 1956, voted to "recommend that the Executive Council be made up of 24 persons--12 persons from each denomination with the President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Minister of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches part of the group of 24." and "That the Executive Council choose from its own number co-chairmen. Such other officers as it may deem necessary may be chosen from within or beyond its own group. In the latter instance they shall serve with voice but without vote."

Further tentative action toward implementing the foregoing has been to agree that "to assure closest integration of the work of the United Church with the responsible bodies of the respective constituencies in their administrative structures continuing for the interim, the Congregational Christian Executive Committee and the Evangelical and Reformed General Council

should designate to the Nominating Committee from their own memberships the eleven additional members of the Executive Council from each constituency and that the Nominating Committee present....a pro forma report accordingly".

For the Congregational Christian people the procedure is somewhat simplified by the proposal that "the sophomore and senior classes....of the Executive Committee", i.e., those whose terms expire respectively in 1958 and 1960, "might well be brought to the membership of the Executive Council". Our members dividing generally into two classes each serving six-year terms does not so readily lend itself to this procedure. General Council might consider the designation of the Administrative Committee, which is made up of seven members, and then ask the Administrative Committee to name the other five having in mind geographical distribution, special competences, and other pertinent factors.

General Council will be interested to know that Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, of the Church of South India, has now definitely accepted the invitation to deliver the address before the Uniting General Synod on June 26.

Requests for Approval of Elections

The following requests for approval of elections have been received:

From the Board of National Missions in accord with provisions of By-Law 112, the following elected to membership on the Board for terms of six years:

The Rev. Russell D. Custer, D.D., Milltown, New Jersey. He has already served one term, and was elected Secretary of the Board in 1955.

Mr. Jerrus M. Bryant, Indianapolis, Indiana, an elder in Carrollton Avenue Church. He was a regional chairman in the New Church Building Fund Campaign, is Chief Engineer of a Link-Belt Ball and Roller Bearing Plant, and an outstanding lay-churchman.

The Board reports the election also of the following Treasurers:- Theodore R. Schwalm, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, General Fund; and at his request for one year only, Oscar C. Grueninger, St. Louis, Missouri, Church Building Fund.

From the Commission on Christian Social Action in accord with provisions of By-Law 130, the following elected to membership on the Commission for terms of six years:

The Rev. Alfred F. Schroeder, pastor of Christ Church, Belleville, Illinois, formerly President of South Illinois Synod and earlier of California Synod, delegate to the 1956 General Synod and chairman of that General Synod's Committee on the Report of the Commission on Christian Social Action.

Mrs. William D. Powell, Walkersville, Maryland, graduate of Hood College, member of Glade Church and of Potomac Synod's Committee on Christian Social Action, former President of Maryland Regional Women's Guild, leader in Girl Scout work, International Relations chairman of the County Homemakers Club, presently vice-president of the Frederick County School Board and secretary of the Board of Managers of the Frederick Memorial Hospital at Frederick, Maryland.

Miscellaneous Matters

Directive on Pastors' Homes. Overlooked in presenting to the October meeting matters referred to General Council by the 1956 General Synod was the following:

"The General Synod commends the Board of Pensions and Relief on its efficient administration of the Pastors' Homes at Bensenville, Illinois, and Blue Springs, Missouri, and directs the General Council to provide for the erection of one new cottage each year during the next triennium."

Gift for WCC Central Committee Members. The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches will meet in New Haven, Connecticut, July 30 to August 7, 1957. The Assembly having met in Evanston in 1954, this is likely to be the last major World Council meeting in this country for some years. The National Council of Churches is planning to present to each non-American member of the Central Committee a copy of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Since our Christian Education Press has just published the first book-length biography of Bishop Otto Dibelius, one of the Presidents of the World Council, and since that book records very significant ties between the Bishop and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in the past, would General Council members favor and approve presentation of a copy of this book to each non-American member of the Central Committee as a gift from our Church? The book is published at \$3.50, in quantity we may have it at \$2.10 per copy, the cost of such presentation therefore amounting to somewhere between \$170 and \$200.

The Matter of "Mixed Marriages". One of our pastors expresses his concern for a stronger, more comprehensive stand on the part of our Church with regard to "mixed marriages" between Roman Catholics and members of our churches. He raises pertinent issues involved in Roman Catholic insistence on the non-Catholic signing a pre-marital agreement promising, among other things, that any offspring of the marriage will be baptized and raised Roman Catholic. This pastor points out that (1) either the non-Catholic signs with tongue-in-cheek, which is dishonest and immoral, (2) or signs in good faith and in effect thus disavows his or her commitment to the Church in which membership is held. He had worked out a proposed amendment to the constitutions of the congregations he is serving which would have provided that in such instances the usual disciplinary procedures would be initiated leading to erasure of such a member's name from the roll. While I found myself in considerable measure of sympathy with this pastor's views and concerns I advised against proceeding with these proposals since they would go "far beyond any position in doctrine or polity ever taken by the Evangelical and Reformed Church". He was quite amenable to this advice. I report the matter here because this may perhaps be something which General Council should refer to the Commissions on Christian Social Action and Church and Ministry for study and recommendations to be reported back to the General Council.

Committees and Delegations. An appendix to this report will indicate approximate completion of the naming of personnel of committees and delegations election or appointment of which was referred to the Administrative Committee by the General Council in October. Chairmen who have agreed to serve will be so indicated, unless by the time this report is mimeographed final designation has not been completed. In one instance designation has been deliberately held up pending further advice of General Council. Dr. Theodore A. Distler, former president of Franklin and Marshall College and now executive secretary of the Association of American Colleges, a member of Grace Church, Washington,

D.C., would be a most desirable chairman for the Committee on Formula for Allocations to Educational Institutions of the Church. But our action last February specified that members of this committee should not be "members of the Commission on Higher Education or those officially related to our educational institutions". The recent General Synod elected Dr. Distler to membership on the Corporation of the Lancaster Theological Seminary. The fact that he is just beginning his service on this board, has hardly had time to acquire any conceivable bias favorable to the Seminary, and that the colleges rather than the seminaries are the institutions concerning which greatest objectivity and fairness will be required, may move General Council to approve Dr. Distler's service on and chairmanship of this important committee.

The Rev. Victor P. Wierwille. In accord with the directive of General Council a conference was held with this brother on Tuesday evening, January 15, in Cleveland, others present including the Second Vice-President, the Secretary-Elect, Dr. Ben M. Herbster, the President of Northwest Ohio Synod, and the President of the Church. It is believed that the conference was more than fruitful enough to justify its having been held. No further action is recommended. The spirit and potential of the conference is reflected in a letter of appreciation from the President of Northwest Ohio Synod who wrote in part:- "I think it cleared the way for an understanding which is necessary to our brother's usefulness to the Church..... Furthermore, I think that our being together has paved the way for the Synodical Council to talk more freely with him."

Standing Committee on Nominations. At its last meeting General Council voted to request Dr. Ben M. Herbster, out of his experience as chairman of the Study Committee of 1950-53, to prepare a statement interpreting the function of the Standing Committee on Nominations. That statement will be found as one of the appendices to this report. It would be in order for General Council, if it concurs in this statement, to adopt it and refer it to the Committee for its further guidance.

Conclusion

The last paragraph of this report is being written the day after the public inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower into his second term as President of the United States. At least one passage in that address is worthy of a second thought:

"For one truth must rule all we think and all that we do. No people can live to itself alone. The unity of all who dwell in freedom is their only sure defence. The economic need of all nations--in mutual dependence--makes isolation an impossibility: Not even America's prosperity could long survive if other nations did not prosper. No nation can longer be a fortress, lone and strong and safe. And any people, seeking such shelter for themselves, can now build only their own prison."

There is fundamental cause for Christian thanksgiving that that paragraph was uttered by President Eisenhower. The Republican Party, rightly or wrongly, has been identified with an isolationist world view. It could be argued that its only bow to internationalism was in the colonial venture initiated by President McKinley. Its commitment to a policy of high protective

tariff added further to its isolationist reputation; and the more recent intra-party struggle in which, probably unfairly, the late Senator Robert A. Taft was looked upon by some as the advocate of the United States going it alone, only served to bring up to date the party's reputation.

That President Eisenhower could speak as he did so unequivocally seems to imply that not even the Republican Party any longer takes seriously the isolationist point of view. More significant, however, is that probably no major voice will be raised against the President's affirmation, and it can be assumed that the great preponderance of our people will give it their unqualified assent.

It is all that we could ask of responsible political leadership,- a recognition of this nation's interdependence with the rest of the world and of the nation's involvement in world responsibility. For all that we can be most grateful. But as a Church, part of the whole Christian Church throughout all the world, our mission under God presses us further. It is ours to seek to sharpen men's eyes and sensitize their hearts until, beyond economic interdependence and political internationalism, they come alive to the basic kinship of all mankind both as children of God by creation, sinners who need to be saved by grace through faith, and all men of every race and nationality souls for whom Christ died. To the declaration of that eternal gospel we must renew our summons to our pastors and lay people, to our Boards, Commissions and other agencies, and to it as a General Council we must re-dedicate ourselves if we are to be worthy of the trust the Church has reposed in us.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. WAGNER, President

PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, November 1, 1956 - January 31, 1957

- November 1 -- Cleveland, Ohio, Conference of Synod Presidents (second day)
4 -- Norwood, Ohio, SERMON, Zion Church, Dr. Herbster's 25th anniversary
5 -- Glenside, Pa., ADDRESS, Faith Church Congregational Dinner
7 -- New York City, NCC Committee on Policy and Strategy
8 -- Lancaster, Pa., ADDRESS to Seminary Seniors. Swander Lectures. ADDRESS, 50th Anniversary Fellowship Service, St. Peter's
9 -- Lancaster, Pa., SERMON, St. Peter's, 50th Anniversary
November 14
to
December 21 -- Trip to Far East. See special report to General Council
- January 6 -- Oklahoma City, Okla., SERMON, Zion Church. ADDRESS, regional gathering of pastors and lay people
7 -- St. Louis, Mo., SERMON, Chapel Service at Eden. ADDRESS, to Seminary Seniors
8 -- Lancaster, Pa., ADDRESS, Kiwanis Club
13 -- State College, Pa., SERMON, University Chapel. ADDRESS, Community Service, Faith Church
15 -- Cleveland, Administrative Committee
18 -- Philadelphia, Pa., SERMON, Union Week of Prayer Service
22 -- Philadelphia, Pa., Luncheon for Dr. Kerschner. Meeting of Corporators of Presbyterian Ministers Fund
23-24 -- Cleveland, Ohio, Joint Planning Committee
27 -- Canton, Ohio, SERMON, Community Heights Church. SERMON, Installation of Full-time President, Southeast Ohio Synod
28 -- Columbus, Ohio, E & R Luncheon. ADDRESS, State Pastors Convention
29 -- COMMUNION MEDITATION, State Pastors Convention

PERSONNEL MATTERS

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Howard Spaulding Fuller, 263 Brandon Road, Rochester 9, N.Y. Age 28.
Schooling: Philips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.; Roxbury Latin School, Roxbury, Mass.; Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.; Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Ordained by the Congregational Christian Churches in 1954. Married, two children. References: Rev. C. William Mensendiek, Rev. Paul C. Jordan.

Rev. N. S. Hoffman, 555 Radnor St., Harrisburg, Penna. Age 54.
Schooling: Albright College, Reading, Pa.; Moravian Seminary, Bethlehem, Pa. Ordained by the Evangelical Congregational Church in 1927 and 1936. Married. References: Rev. Arthur D. Knoebel, Rev. Nevin E. Schellenberger, Rev. John A. Kleinginna.

Rev. Vernon Waldo Rice, 611 First Ave., Council Bluffs, Iowa. Age 52.
Schooling: Yankton College, Yankton, S.D.; University of Chicago; Chicago Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Congregational Christian Churches in 1931. Married, two children. References: Dr. Arnold E. Klick, Rev. Henry G. Held.

APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINGENT ON FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Joseph James Bevilacqua, Puerto Rico Mission, Humacao, Puerto Rico. Age 41. Schooling: Tufts University, Medford, Mass.; Chicago Theological Seminary; Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Ordained by the Presbytery of Detroit in 1945. Presently a member of the Congregational Christian Churches. Preaches in English and Spanish. Married, two children. References: Rev. Philip Williams, Rev. Paul F. Umbeck. (Is being challenged for the specialized work at Martha Memorial Church, New York City)

APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINGENT ON SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION ON REGULAR FORM AND SUBSEQUENT FAVORABLE ACTION BY SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Fred E. Luchs, 1417 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. Age 52.
Schooling: Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.; Eastern Theological Seminary; Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago. Ordained by the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1931. Dismissed 1937 to Presbytery of Athens, Ohio. Presently a member of the Congregational Christian Churches. Married, four children.

APPOINTMENTS APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. J. Donald Paine, Allentown, Penna., as editor of children's publications of the Board of Christian Education and Publication. Salary, \$4500 a year plus housing allowance of \$1200 a year. Graduate of Lebanon Valley College and Lancaster Theological Seminary. Ordained 1953 by Lancaster Synod.

TENTATIVE DRAFT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED BY THE UNITING GENERAL
SYNOD DECLARING THE UNION IN EFFECT (X, B)

WHEREAS the Evangelical and Reformed Church by procedures regularly prescribed in its Constitution and By-Laws has approved the Basis of Union and Interpretations and authorized its duly elected delegates to join in the call and holding of the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ;

AND WHEREAS the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, adjudging the affirmative vote of the churches voting as constituting sufficient support to warrant it in proceeding to consummate the union, has likewise authorized its duly elected delegates to join in the call and holding of the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ;

BE IT RESOLVED, FIRST, that the delegates of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches in joint session assembled this day, June 25, 1957, in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, do hereby declare that the Basis of Union and Interpretations have been legally adopted;

SECOND, that the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches is now effected under the name of "The United Church of Christ";

THIRD, that the consummation of the union be formally pronounced by the President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Secretary and Minister of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the delegates concurring;

FOURTH, that until the adoption of a Constitution for the United Church of Christ the Basis of Union shall regulate the business and affairs of the United Church;

AND FIFTH, that pending the opening devotional service of this Uniting General Synod, the joint session be recessed, its delegates to meet on the morrow as members of the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

TENTATIVE DRAFT OF PROPOSED FORMAL DECLARATION OF THE UNION

The Secretary and Minister of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches and the President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, clasping their right hands in symbol of the fellowship of their respective communions and their oneness in Christ, will proceed as follows:

The President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Constrained by the apostolic injunction "to lead a life worthy of the calling to which (we) have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"; and rejoicing in the assurance that "there is one body and one Spirit, just as (we) were called to the one hope that belongs to (our) call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all";

The Secretary and Minister of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches. "Moved by the conviction that we are united in spirit and purpose and are in agreement on the substance of the Christian faith and the essential character of the Christian life; affirming our devotion to one God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our membership in the holy catholic Church, which is greater than any single Church and than all the Churches together; believing that denominations exist not for themselves but as parts of that Church, within which each denomination is to live and labor and, if need be, die; and confronting the divisions and hostilities of our world, and hearing with a deepened sense of responsibility the prayer of our Lord 'that they all may be one'";

The Delegates Speaking in Unison. We do now, as the regularly constituted representatives of the Congregational Christian Churches and of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, declare ourselves to be one body and our union consummated in this act establishing the United Church of Christ, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

The Secretary and Minister. "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The President. "The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

The Assembly shall then sing the hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds", and the opening religious service continue.

DRAFT OF JANUARY 2, 1957
Replacing drafts of
Dec. 10 and 12, 1956

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

A STATEMENT OF A POSSIBLE SERIES OF STEPS AND INTERMEDIATE STAGES BY WHICH THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE E&R CHURCH MIGHT BE INTEGRATED WITH THAT OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS, IN PURSUANCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIS OF UNION.

STEP ONE: June 1957

The 1957 Annual Meeting of the ABCFM to be called to meet at Cleveland, Ohio, just prior to the first meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, for the purposes of:

- A) Amending the By-Laws as necessary to give (Basis of Union VIII,D,1) to the General Synod the right, henceforth, of electing the Corporate Members of the Board.
- B) Increasing the number of members of the (Basis of Union VIII,D,5) Prudential Committee from 36 to 45 members.
- C) Adjourning to Sioux Falls S.D., on Oct. 15-17, 1957, there to complete the usual work of the Annual Meeting, at date and place previously planned.

EFFECT OF STEP ONE:

The changes in the By-Laws bring the method of election of the Board and the size of the Prudential Committee to the specifications of the Basis of Union. The postponement of the balance of the Annual Meeting gives time (From June to October) for the orientation of the new Corporate Members of the Board, for the nomination from among the new members of some members of the Prudential Committee, and for the preparation of the docket of the Annual Meeting in the light of steps taken at Cleveland.

STEP TWO: June 25-26, 1957

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ (Basis of Union VIII,D,1) to elect 225 Corporate Members of the American Board, 113 of whom to be ex-E&R and 112 to be ex-CC persons, the latter to be chosen from among the present Corporate Members-at-Large of the ABCFM.

EFFECT OF STEP TWO:

The General Synod, by having taken up the election of the Members of the Board, will have brought the American Board into relationship with the United Church of Christ, as anticipated in the Basis of Union. Although there will be temporarily other members than the 225, resulting from the unexpired terms of others previously, that number will rapidly fall off (See Appendix One.).

STEP THREE: October 15-17, 1957

The American Board to complete its Annual Meeting at Sioux Falls, S.D. Its membership now includes 113 ex-E&R representatives among the 225 elected by the General Synod. (See Appendix Two). General Officers of the Board would be elected as terms may have expired, and the Staff elected as customary on an annual basis. In the election of the Prudential Committee (Board of Directors), there will be not only the customary number of vacancies created by the expiry of terms, but the nine additional places created by the enlargement of the Committee (Step One, B). The Board might, therefore, elect to the Prudential Committee of the American Board the twelve persons who are, at the same time, the Members of the Board of International Missions of the E&R Church.

EFFECT OF STEP THREE:

The 225 Corporate Members elected by the General Synod, and other members whose terms have not yet expired, take up the full responsibility of the American Board. In at least one point they make another important change. The election of E&R members to the Prudential Committee gives them a direct participation in the administration of its affairs. Thus the E&R elements in the United Church take part in the ongoing work of the American Board, at the same time that the same twelve persons are carrying on, separately, the work of the Board of International Missions.

STEP FOUR: (Timing subject to practical and legal considerations)

With the Corporate Body of the American Board elected by the General Synod, and the Members of the Board of International Missions also serving on the Prudential Committee of the American Board, conditions would be ideal for the full integration of the work of the two Boards as rapidly as experience and legal requirements would indicate to be wise. The following stages would seem logical:

1. Undertake cooperative or joint work in specific areas of activity of the two Boards, at home or abroad.
2. Have the Members of the Board of International Missions, sitting as members of the Prudential Committee of the ABCFM, bring information or ask advice of their colleagues on problems of the work of the B.I.M.
3. Work with the Committee preparing the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, to insure the most effective provisions whereby "The General Synod...shall...through the instrumentality of Boards....meet the responsibility of the Church for foreign missions..." (Basis of Union IV, C and X, D)
4. Increase the number of ex-E&R representatives on the Prudential Committee of the American Board, within the number of vacancies occurring each year, as the unification of the work of the two Boards proceeds.
5. Decide, on legal advice, the date when the work of the two Boards may be fully integrated, and the BIM becomes only a legal holding corporation, as necessary.

APPENDIX ONE.

The present Corporate Membership of the American Board consists of 250 Corporate Members-at-Large, elected for six year terms, and in classes of 83 or 84 persons chosen in the even-numbered years; and of approximately 1200 persons elected by the Corporation by virtue of their being delegates to the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches for the particular biennium ending in June 1958.

Assuming that the General Synod elects the 112 ex-CC Corporate Members from among the present Corporate Members-at-Large, and that there be no further election of delegates to the General Council as Corporate Members of the Board, the following represents the number of Corporate Members to be anticipated in the immediately ensuing years:

Dates June to June of each year	<u>Elected by General Synod</u>		<u>Unexpired terms</u>	
	Ex-E&R	Ex- CC	At large GC Delegates	
1957-58	113	112	138*	1200
1958-60	113	112	93*	0
1960-62	113	112	48*	0
1962 onwards **	113	112	0	0

Notes: * The precise number depends on the classes from which members are elected by the General Synod to the group of 112. Resignations for various reasons would further reduce this number below the maximum figures given here.

** Presumably the new Constitution of the General Synod may be adopted by this time, eliminating classification in terms of ex-E&R or ex-CC members of the United Church of Christ.

APPENDIX TWO.

In no case does the full number of Corporate Members get to an Annual Meeting. When an Annual Meeting does not coincide with a meeting of the General Council, as would be true at Sioux Falls, the attendance of Members elected by virtue of their being delegates to the General Council becomes very small in number. Reasonable efforts might be made to insure attendance of a proper proportion of the Members elected by the General Synod from its E&R constituency; including the possibility of implementing the suggestion of the Basis of Union (VIII,D,2) that a partial payment of expenses of Members be made by the Board to insure attendance at the Annual Meeting.

AN AGREEMENT

The General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, in behalf of its boards and agencies, and The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches agree to authorize the procedures toward the establishment of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ as set forth in the Basis of Union with Interpretations, Article VIII-E. In pursuance of this common purpose they hereby approve a plan for the progressive coordination of work with the understanding that during this period of cooperation and development of a common program, the following principles are to be mutually observed:

The homeland program and services of the United Church of Christ, including "the founding, support and building of churches, education, educational institutions, publications,* ministerial relief, evangelism, stewardship, institutional benevolences, and other home services," (BU, VIII-E, 2) are to be coordinated through the body to be known as The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ; this body is to be developed and established in accordance with the provisions of the Basis of Union with Interpretations, Article VIII-E.

The Board for Home Missions will be an agency of the following corporations, all of which will continue in existence:

The Board of National Missions
The Board of Christian Education
and Publication
The Board of Business Management
(Eden Publishing House and
Schaff-Heidelberg Corp.)
The Board of Home Missions of the
Reformed Church in the U. S.

The American Missionary Association
The Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief
Congregational Church Building Society
Congregational Education Society
Congregational Home Missionary Society
Congregational Publishing Society
The Congregational Sunday School Extension Society
The Congregational Woman's Home Missionary Federation

In view of the fact that responsibility for the Evangelical and Reformed Church papers is vested in the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the delegation of this responsibility in the United Church of Christ is yet to be determined.

The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ will also coordinate the work of the following Evangelical and Reformed Commissions: The Commission on Evangelism, the Commission on Stewardship, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Commission on Benevolent Institutions, with the Congregational Christian bodies carrying similar responsibilities.+

*Includes printing.

+ The relation of the Evangelical and Reformed Commission on Church and Ministry and the Congregational Christian Commission on the Ministry to The Board for Home Missions is still to be determined.

Beginning with the first meeting of the General Synod and continuing until The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ is formally constituted, the 225 persons who are Members-Elect of the aforesaid Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ shall supervise, through a Committee of Fifty of the Members-Elect and an Executive Committee of the Committee of Fifty, the development and execution of plans for the coordination of program activities and the eventual establishment of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ in accordance with the provisions of the Basis of Union with Interpretations.

In this Agreement the words "formally constituted" shall mean that the Board of Directors of The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches has declared that the tenure of certain classes of corporate members of The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches has terminated, and that the 225 persons elected by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ have qualified and have become the corporate members.

The Committee of Fifty shall be elected in the manner prescribed for the election of the Board of Directors of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ in Article VIII, Section E, Paragraphs 9, 10, and 11, of the Basis of Union with Interpretations. It is presumed that when the Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ is formally constituted the Committee of Fifty of the Members-Elect and the Executive Committee of the Committee of Fifty will become respectively the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ.

The General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, in behalf of the homeland boards and commissions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches in its own behalf and in behalf of the corporations for which it acts as attorney and agent further agree that:

1. All incorporated bodies shall continue to hold their properties and to exercise their corporate responsibilities.
2. Organizations involved in forming The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ shall continue to perform their respective functions until such time as provision for the orderly and properly authorized transfer of those responsibilities to the Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ is completed.
3. Subsequent to the first meeting of the General Synod and until The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ is formally constituted Members-Elect of said Board shall meet at least annually.
4. The Basis of Union with Interpretations describes the relationship between The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ and the General Synod. It is expected that in the future this

relationship will be further described and will be set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

5. Until the formal constituting of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ present work will be conducted by means of appropriations made by the organizations now functioning in the field for the uniting denominations, but it is anticipated that as common work is established appropriations from both sides will be made to support this common work.

6. It is desired and expected that necessary appropriations for formally constituting The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ will be completed in time to enable its establishment during the year 1958.

7. It is understood that the Members-Elect of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ, using funds allocated to them by the existing bodies, may employ staff on a temporary basis to develop and execute plans for the coordination of work; but until The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ is formally constituted, all the boards and commissions will continue to provide their own staffs.

8. The Members-Elect in their first meeting shall effect a temporary organization, shall establish rules to provide for meetings of the Members-Elect and for the guidance of their own subsequent actions and the actions of the said Committee of Fifty of the Members-Elect and the Executive Committee of the Committee of Fifty.

9. It is further agreed that the By-Laws of The Board of Home Missions shall be amended prior to the formal constituting of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ, to provide for a settlement in the event that the Evangelical and Reformed boards terminate their participation in The Board for Home Missions. This amendment shall provide

- a) that upon the effective date of such termination the membership of all Evangelical and Reformed members of the Board shall terminate, Likewise, the terms of office of all Evangelical and Reformed Directors of the Board shall terminate.
- b) That the Board shall reimburse to each Evangelical and Reformed Board or Commission, respectively, any unexpended balances which such Evangelical and Reformed organizations may have advanced. In determining said unexpended balances there may be deducted any sums for which The Board for Home Missions has become obligated with the express approval of the respective Evangelical and Reformed organizations.

Pursuant to the foregoing, we further agree to recommend that the following actions be taken at the first meeting of the Members-Elect of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ:

1. That the Members-Elect of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ accept their election by the General Synod and the responsibility of performing the following functions:

- (a) To plan for the uniting of the ~~homeland~~ enterprises of the two denominations forming the United Church of Christ in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

- (b) To encourage and foster a program of cooperative action among the agencies listed on page 1 of this Agreement until such time as The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ is formally constituted.

- (c) To become the Corporate Members of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ, beginning their tenure of office when the Committee of Fifty of the Members-Elect (or the Executive Committee) shall inform the authoritative bodies of the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian denominations that the development of plans has proceeded far enough to warrant the assumption of this responsibility and shall inform the Directors of the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions that in the judgment of the Committee of Fifty of the Members-Elect (or the Executive Committee) the aforesaid Board of Directors of the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions may properly make the declaration that terminates the tenure of certain classes of Corporate Members, which declaration will result in the formal constituting of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ.

2. That a Committee of Fifty of the Members-Elect of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ be elected and that it be charged with the following responsibilities:

- (a) To provide for the execution of the policies and program of the Members-Elect of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ.

- (b) To manage the affairs of the Members-Elect of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ in the interim between meetings of said Members-Elect.

- (c) To elect an Executive Committee composed of 13 persons among whom shall be the Co-Chairmen of the Committee of Fifty.

- (d) To authorize the Executive Committee to do the following:

- (1) To organize itself, electing other officers and committees in addition to the Co-Chairmen.
- (2) To employ an executive or executives.
- (3) To call into session the Committee of Fifty or Members-Elect as its judgment may direct, with the requirement that the Members-Elect shall meet at least annually.
- (4) To expend a budget - which, however, shall not exceed the moneys appropriated for its purposes by the boards and agencies of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches and by the United Church of Christ.
- (5) To recommend to the existing Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian boards and commissions ways and means for the coordination of their work until plans are formulated for the formal constituting of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ.
- (6) To prepare plans for the modification of the present organization and structure in such a way as to conserve all important existing values of uniting organizations and provide new structures suitable to the needs and work of the United Church of Christ -- all this in harmony with Article VIII of the Basis of Union with Interpretations.
- (7) When such plans are completed to prepare and present suitable recommendations for adoption by the responsible boards and authorities of the uniting denominations and of the United Church of Christ for the formal constituting of The Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ.
- (8) To complete, if possible, these plans for reorganization in time for consideration and action by The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches at its Biennial Meeting in June 1958, so that appropriate revisions in the Charter of said Board may be made effective and responsibilities now carried by present membership of that Board may be transferred to the membership as it shall be constituted by the United Church of Christ.

The Standing Committee on Nominations

Recognizing the danger of trying to interpret on the basis of one's memory any action that has already been passed and the reasons for the action, never-the-less at the request of General Council I will try to interpret what the Study Committee had in mind in proposing to the General Synod of 1953 that By-Law 87-1, "The Committee on Nominations shall elect from its number a standing committee of seven to serve during the triennium. This standing committee shall make recommendations on filling vacancies that may occur during the triennium."

This recommendation grew out of a feeling of the Study Committee that many times we were not making use of very valuable persons for membership on Boards, Commissions, and agencies of the denomination because those persons and their qualifications were not known to the church at large and to those filling the vacancies. Since the Committee on Nominations, as provided for by the General Synod of 1953, was to have a representative of every Synod in the Church, it was thought that there would thus be available to this standing Committee on Nominations a great reservoir of names and qualifications for the various vacancies that may occur between the meetings of the General Synod. Consequently the Study Committee hoped that this permanent Committee on Nominations would make available to Boards, Commissions, Auxiliary Organizations, General Council, etc., suggestions for persons who could be used in official capacity by the denomination.

The idea was not that this Committee on Nominations would actually nominate the people, but rather that they could suggest, either on their own or when requested, a list of persons with proper qualifications and who ought to be used somewhere in the general work of the denomination.

In short, the work of the permanent Committee on Nominations would be to gather names, data, qualifications, and provide such a file to anyone who requested it. They should also feel some responsibility for taking the initiative in suggesting some of these names to Boards, Agencies and the General Council when vacancies occur.

To my best knowledge this is what the committee had in mind.

Ben M. Herbst

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION PERSONNEL

General Board - National Council of Churches:

The Rev. John R. C. Haas, D.D.

Donald L. Helfferich, LL.D.

John W. Mueller, Esq., LL.D.

The Rev. James E. Wagner, D.D.

Alternates: The Rev. Henry C. Koch, D.D.

The Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, D.D.

The Rev. Ben M. Herbster, D.D.

The Rev. Gerhard W. Grauer, D.D.

Mrs. Milton C. Lang

American Bible Society:

The Rev. Clarence H. Moatz

The Rev. Benedict W. Tannler

The Lord's Day Alliance:

The Rev. H. Jerome Leinbach

North American Area Council of the World Alliance:

The Rev. Silas P. Bittner, Th.D.

The Rev. Raymond DeDobay

The Rev. Louis H. Gunnemann, D.D.

The Rev. Arthur M. Krueger, D.D.

The Rev. Allen O. Miller, Ph.D.

The Rev. Bela Vassady, Th.D.

The Rev. James E. Wagner, D.D.

The Rev. Frederick W. Schroeder, D.D.

The Rev. Ralph E. Weisser

Louis M. Hammerschmidt, LL.D.

Alvin R. Keppel, Pd.D.

Mrs. Reuben J. Schroer

Mrs. Arthur R. Achtemeier

The Theological Committee:

The Rev. Frederick W. Schroeder, D.D., LL.D., Chairman

The Rev. Robert V. Moss, Jr., Ph.D.

The Rev. Ruben H. Huenemann, D.D.

The Rev. Arthur M. Krueger, D.D.

The Rev. John B. Noss, Ph.D.

The Rev. Frederick L. Herzog, Th.D.

The Rev. Elmer J. F. Arndt, Ph.D.

The Rev. Bela Vassady, Th.D.

The Rev. Bert Helm

The Committee on Liturgics:

The Rev. Louis H. Gunnemann, D.D., Chairman

The Rev. Friedrich O. Rest

The Rev. R. Howard Paine

The Rev. Samuel J. Schmiechen

The Rev. Paul E. Schmoyer, D.D.

The Rev. D. Bard Thompson, Ph.D.

Committee and Delegation Personnel - 2

The Historical Committee:

The Rev. Carl E. Schneider, Ph.D., Chairman
The Rev. Josias Friedli, D.D.
The Rev. Paul N. Crusius, D.D.
The Rev. David Dunn, D.D.
The Rev. Theophil W. Menzel
The Rev. William Toth, Ph.D.

Committee to Study the Church's Responsibility in the Care of the Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded:

Mr. Samuel C. Bond, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Milton C. Lang
The Rev. Emil N. Krafft, D.D.
The Rev. Paul E. Irion
The Rev. Merl Schiffman
The Rev. Harold P. Schultz
The Rev. John G. Ruhl
The Rev. Herman A. Fenske
The Rev. Garnet O. Adams

Committee on the Deaconess Order:

The Rev. Carl C. Rasche, Chairman
The Rev. Carl J. Scherzer, D.D.
Mrs. E. Roy Corman
The Rev. Beatrice M. Weaver
The Rev. Robert T. Fauth
The Rev. Charles W. Schwantes
Mr. Henry W. Kleber

Committee to Study the Facilities and Programs of the Seminaries:

Dr. Donald C. Dearborn, Chairman
Dr. Donald L. Helfferich
The Rev. Russell C. Eroh, Ph.D.
The Rev. Gustav J. Krumm, D.D.
The Rev. Arthur W. Newell, D.D.
Mr. W. Lloyd Snyder, Jr.
The Rev. Theodore J. Rasche

Committee on Formula for Allocations:

Dr. Theodore A. Distler
Walter H. Brackin, Ph.D.
The Rev. W. Wilson Carvell
Mr. Harold F. Funk
The Rev. Erwin H. Bode, D.D.
The Rev. Charles R. Zweizig, D.D.
Mr. R. J. Schaad

Committee and Delegation Personnel - 3

Committee on the Relation of Our Hospitals to the Church:

The Rev. Albert G. Gonser, D.D., Chairman
The Rev. Albert H. Schmeuszer, D.D.
The Rev. Carl H. Grathwohl
Albert G. Hahn, L.H.D.
The Rev. Paul E. Irion
The Rev. Harold C. Baer
Mrs. Hugo Schuessler

Committee to Study the Matter of Continuing the Hungarian Chair at Elmhurst:

The Rev. Robert C. Stanger, D.D., Chairman
The Rev. John L. Schmidt, D.D.
Mr. Joseph C. Wetzel

SUPPLEMENT TO PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO GENERAL COUNCIL. FEBRUARY 5-7, 1957.

Since the primary report of the President to the General Council was written certain additional matters have come to his desk.

Regrets from Joseph C. Wetzel. Because of a conflict of dates our esteemed member, Joseph C. Wetzel, sends his regrets at being unable to attend this session of the General Council. He adds: "At present I am having a wonderful experience. Rev. (Paul R.) Surbey, our Synod President, has asked me to serve each Sunday in the church at Smithton, Illinois. This is a small country-town church--such wonderful folks that it is really a pleasure and inspiration to worship with them."

National Conference on Social Welfare. A further Conference on Policy and Strategy of the Churches in Social Welfare is planned to be held at Atlantic City, May 7-10. I have asked Dr. Klemme in consultation with Boards and Commissions sharing primary interest and concern in this field to arrange for our representation up to the fifteen delegates allotted to the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Expenses of the delegates are to be borne by the agencies they respectively represent. There are two delegate places yet unassigned, and Dr. Klemme suggests that the General Council might well be officially represented at this conference. If this suggestion commends itself to the Council, I suggest that Mrs. Milton C. Lang be asked to represent us, she having been a member of the National Council's Department of Social Welfare, and having visited social welfare agencies in Scandinavia last summer.

Privilege of Call in a Federated Church. The President of West New York Synod inquires whether a United Lutheran pastor at present serving the Federated Church at Fayette, N.Y. should be required to apply for Privilege of Call in the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This congregation's articles of federation provide that the three denominations represented in it will be invited to supply pastors on a rotation basis. There have been instances where we have required men from other denominations to secure Privilege of Call to serve in federated churches in which we were involved. However, the Statement of Policy on Federated Churches and United Churches, which General Council adopted in 1952, does not include this requirement. To require securing of Privilege of Call without at the same time requiring the minister to surrender his status in others of the participating denominations would seem to have this advantage, that it would give him status in our ministry and, after the usual probationary year, vote and voice in the synod of which the congregation is a member.

Zion Church, Tonawanda, N.Y. The President of West New York Synod asks General Council to encourage the Board of National Missions to grant Zion Church, Tonawanda, N.Y., special assistance in its building program by giving it a loan of at least \$20,000 on a second-mortgage. The Synod purchased a 3½-acre site at cost of \$12,500. Pastor and officers of the church were assured in May, 1956, that an ample loan from a bank would be available when needed, and on that basis contracts were signed in October 1956; but when application was made in November to the bank, the money market having tightened up meanwhile, the application was denied. The Synod appears to be fully in back of this project and has worked out additional strategies to aid this congregation in relocating in what is felt to be a high potential location in "the fastest growing suburb in the Buffalo area".

Inter-Synod Transfer of Congregation. The President of Lehigh Synod reports that the Kutztown-Blandon Charge composed of St. John's, Kutztown, and Maiden creek Church, Blandon, has been dissolved; and that the Synodical Council, on petition of the congregation, has unanimously approved transfer of the Maiden creek Church from Lehigh Synod to Reading Synod. In accord with Section 38-7 of the Constitution, General Council is asked to approve this transfer contingent on favorable action by Reading Synod to which the action has been referred.

Request for Loans from Emergency Reserve Fund. The President of Northeast Ohio Synod, in behalf of the Synodical Council, inquires whether it would be possible to borrow funds from the Emergency Reserve Fund "in order to help establish new churches in the Synod." He asks: "Would General Council authorize a loan to our Synod--an amount of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000--with or without interest, for one year at a time?" and states further: "Some of our ministers and lay people have indicated that such a use of Reserve Funds would demonstrate faith in the Advance Program and would put to immediate use money given for church purposes without jeopardizing the Reserve or circumventing its purpose". Bearing in mind that the Emergency Reserve Fund was established to guard against the day if and when there should be a drastic collapse of the national economy such as occurred in 1929, General Council will have to consider that (1) in the event of such a collapse the churches which had been lent money from the fund would doubtless have difficulty in repaying the loans at the very time when the need had arisen for which the Fund was established; and (2) that such a disposition of moneys in the Emergency Reserve Fund would favor the one cause of National Missions, worthy as it is, in contrast with all the other causes which have an equity in the Reserve Fund and the protection it is designed to provide.

Proposed Non-Profit Synod Foundation. Attorney Louis H. Goebel, pursuant to consultations with the President of North Illinois Synod, recommends that "to properly hold title to personal property and real property and to carry on necessary transactions for the benefit of the Synod" a non-profit corporation to be designated as a Foundation be organized. It would not only control and manage but also encourage contributions to the Foundation for the benefit of the Synod and its articles of incorporation would provide that, if the Synod were dissolved, "such funds become the property of the Evangelical and Reformed Church or its successors". This Foundation is proposed as an alternative to incorporation of the Synod, a practice which has not been encouraged by the Church.

CC Office of Communications Request. We have been participating in support of the Congregational Christian Office of Communications for more than a year. Primarily this was to share in costs of general promotion of the cause of our union, but facilities of the Office have served specifically Evangelical and Reformed causes as well. Outstanding example was the excellent publicity before, during and after the sessions of our recent General Synod. The Office's Administrative Committee recently took two actions: (1) to add the President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to the membership of the Committee; and (2) to request from us an allocation of \$16,800 for the fiscal year 1957-58, which is about 12 per cent of the budget for the Office. We have contributed at the rate of \$13,800. This expenditure, at least for 1957-58, would appear to be a proper charge against the Union Account in our budget.

Adjudication in George A. Garrett Estate. We are one of several denominations sharing in a trust provided for in the George A. Garrett Estate, income from which is to be used to aid deserving and needy students for the ministry. Applicants for aid were required to sign a statement of faith which, although in the main unobjectionable in its content, seemed to be contrary to our traditions of spiritual and intellectual freedom. This situation was previously reported to General Council and our Board of Christian Education and Publication was encouraged to join others in seeking clarification of the method of administering the trust. It is now reported to our satisfaction that, in the decision of the Court, "the language used by the testator is construed to mean that student candidates for assistance in preparing to enter the ministry who sign the declaration of faith are thereby merely stating their personal beliefs and that they will be free to change their beliefs so stated as a result of their studies or for other causes and if they do they will incur no legal obligations by reason of having signed the declaration of faith."

Support of Higher Education. Taking cognizance of such developments as the establishment of the Council for Financial Aid to Education, the gifts of the Ford Foundation, and more recently the announcement of intention of the Advertising Council of America to use its resources to enlist support for privately financed institutions of higher education, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President of the National Council of Churches, has issued a call in co-operation with the National Council's Commission on Christian Higher Education, as follows: (1) urging the churches to be aware and responsive with regard to the Advertising Council's forthcoming campaign; (2) formulation by each denomination of a program designed to inform its membership of the importance and need of Christian higher education and its place in all higher education; (3) Boards of Foreign Missions to take advantage of this opportunity to re-assert the importance of higher education in the world mission of the Church; and (4) local churches to make every effort to co-operate in the observance of National Christian College Day, April 28, 1957, as an opportunity to stress the importance of Christian higher education.

Approval of certain candidates for ordination. By-Law 25-c requires General Council approval in addition to that of a synodical Committee on Church and Ministry in applications of students for acceptance as candidates for ordination when they have not been under care of a synod during their student days. Further, By-Law 29 requires such students to serve for at least one year before ordination, in which case issuance of Temporary License will authorize performance of pastoral duties. It is recommended that General Council approve, the respective synods concurring, acceptance of the following for ordination:

1. Daniel T. Winger, senior at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, whose father and brother were both Evangelical and Reformed ministers. He thought he had been under care of North Illinois Synod while in college. Dr. Rest had no knowledge of this, but is checking records of Synod prior to his becoming President thereof.

2. Frank Aristides Endrei, in the United States since 1949, graduate in electrical engineering at University of Michigan, B.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California. Attended latter school mainly because of financial aid available. The President of Magyar Synod reports that the Synodical Committee examined this applicant carefully and are quite satisfied as to his theological views.

REPORT ON VISIT TO THE FAR EAST
November 14-December 21, 1956

Dr. James E. Wagner

Prepared especially for the General Council, Board of International Missions, and the Commission on World Service.

This Is Not an Expert Reporting

I begin this report by stressing as strongly as I can that I am keenly aware of my status as a novice and an amateur and that observations and suggestions contained herein are offered simply as honest though undoubtedly imperfect judgments, and presented only for consideration by a Board and a Commission and their executives whose reactions will be far more mature and wise and competent than my own could possibly be.

I had hoped to make this trip without delivering any sermons or addresses, since, as I told a Presbyterian pastor in Anchorage, Alaska, I was going not to teach but to learn, not to speak but to listen. But, he pointed out, I would not be able to avoid sermons and addresses, and was wrong in trying to do so, since, as he said he had found, both native Christians and English-speaking personnel feel so far removed from that part of the world where Christianity is established and dominant and where the movement of church life goes on vigorously and unhindered by alien cultures and non-Christian religions, that they are hungry to hear from anyone from the Christian West, especially if he reflects the ecumenical movement of which they hope so much.

Extent of Travel and Those Who Helped Most

I travelled almost 25,000 miles in the five weeks November 14 to December 21, 22,311 miles by plane, several hundred miles by jeep and auto, perhaps 1500 or more by Pullman in Japan and Formosa, and one brief ride in a pedicab from railway station to the home of my host in Tainan, President C. H. Hwang of the Presbyterian Theological College, while he pedalled alongside on his bicycle, we "holding sweet converse" as we rode along. The schedule included 24 hours in Anchorage, Alaska, 15 days in Japan, four days in Seoul, Korea, 18 hours on Okinawa, four days in Formosa (Taiwan), four days in Hong Kong, and four days in Manila. The daily schedule was a rigorous one except in Manila which had been deliberately kept relatively free for resting up and for writing this report. One very real regret is that I could not visit the Missionary Lammers on Hokkaido, Japan's far north island, but Mr. Gregory felt that time and transportation did not permit. I believe they are the only Evangelical and Reformed missionaries with whom I had no contact at all in the Japan-Hong Kong fields.

During the trip, in Anchorage I was given about six hours auto tour of the city and out to the Matanuska Valley area followed by dinner at his home through courtesy of the Rev. Frank J. Walkup, Presbyterian U.S.A. pastor. In Japan I had the constant companionship of Missionary Paul R. Gregory and was overnight or dinner guest of several Evangelical and Reformed missionaries and a Congregational Christian missionary in Kyoto. In Seoul my hosts were United Church of Canada missionaries. On Okinawa my host was the Rev. Walter W. Krider, Methodist missionary with the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Okinawa. In Formosa, at Taipei my host was the Rev. Walter C. Tong, Congregational Christian director of Taiwan Church World Service, while at Tainan I lived at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Beebe, English

Report on Visit to the Far East - 2

Presbyterian missionaries. In Hong Kong I lived at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Sterling H. Whitener and was entertained at dinner by each of our other mission homes there. And in Manila, while I stayed at a hotel, an itinerary was kindly arranged and carried out by my friend Bishop Enrique C. Sobrepena of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

World Service Contacts

One of the major purposes of the visit to the Far East was to see World Service at work. To this end, in addition to guidance from a number of our missionaries, especially the Rev. Mr. Whitener, I spent significant periods of time with the following regional directors of Church World Service: the Rev. Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr., Tokyo; the Rev. James P. Claypool, Seoul; the Rev. Walter C. Tong, Formosa; and visited the Rev. Kenneth Hobart in his office in Hong Kong.

Sermons, Addresses, Conferences

I preached seven times: Tokyo Union Church, a native Presbyterian Church in Tainan, the Protestant Chapel of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City; and in Seoul (all on one Sunday and no sermon twice) the 8th Army Chapel, Sung Nam (South Castle) and East Gate native Presbyterian Churches, and the Seoul Union Church which meets in the attractive chapel of the Methodist Social Service Center there. Three of these preaching experiences required interpreters.

Chaplains

I conferred with three Evangelical and Reformed Chaplains: Lt. Comm. E. R. Weidler, U.S.N., USS Roanoke; Lt. Col. A. R. Achtermann, U.S. Army, Seoul; and (rank unknown) Harry F. Fenstermacher, Naval Air Station, Atsugi, Japan, who kindly drove in to Tokyo to visit with me. Through the interest of Rear Admiral Edward B. Harp, Jr., Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy, one of our own Evangelical and Reformed ministers, not only was contact with the aforementioned chaplains made but at Tokyo, Seoul, Okinawa; and Formosa, chaplains of one or other of the armed services were at the airport to greet me, and eased my way through customs, provided auto transportation and/or guided me on tours of military installations and a number of base chapels. I met and talked with probably a dozen chaplains and report two general impressions: first, that they are doing a work in worship and pastoral care which would compare more than favorably with civilian parish ministries; second, that the three Evangelical and Reformed chaplains I met on this trip would rank high in their ministries in those same categories of worship and pastoral care. Relations between chaplains and missionary personnel seem to be very good. Appreciative words were spoken by each of the other. On Formosa, where there were only three chaplains for perhaps as many as 10,000 armed service personnel, missionaries were used as "auxiliary chaplains".

Miscellaneous Engagements

Other contacts and engagements included the following: Seven chapel addresses (all but one through interpreters) at Tohoku and Miyagi Colleges (at each, to both Middle School and College chapels), Han-Kuk Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Seoul, Presbyterian Theological College in Tainan, and Union Theological Seminary, Manila. Brief

greetings to Reinamaka Church, Tokyo, a rural church in northern Japan which I visited with Missionary Schroer, the church at Aizu-Wakamatsu, a church in Morioka, and the student chapel at Kobe College. Four conferences with native pastors, at Sendai and at Morioka and at another regional center in northern Japan and in Seoul. Conferences with missionary groups in Sendai (9:30 P.M. to 1:05 A.M.), Seoul (United Church of Canada), Kyoto (Congregational Christian), Tokyo (one Evangelical and Reformed group, one Congregational Christian), and Hong Kong. Other conferences with Missionary Yearick and Pastor Ryukichi Yoshida on the "Homon Dendo" (lay visitation evangelism) movement in Japan; with various chaplains; with the President, Chancellor and others of the administrative staff and faculty of Doshisha University and its School of Theology; with the President and others of the staff of Japan International Christian University; with administrative staff and faculty of Han-Kuk and Tainan theological schools; with the executive committee of the Hong Kong district of the Church of Christ in China; native and missionary officers of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines; and perhaps others which do not come readily to mind.

Unexpected experiences were a 25-minute audience with President Syngman Rhee; a 45-minute interview with U.S. Ambassador Karl L. Rankin in Taipei, Formosa; a half-hour chat with Anglican Bishop Hall in Hong Kong; and a few minutes, also in Hong Kong, with Dr. Paul M. Limbert, General Secretary of the World Alliance of YMCAs and a minister of our Church, whom I last saw in July and August, 1955 in Switzerland.

Writing It Down

Enroute--wherever time was available--I succeeded in writing three general articles and two "President's Viewpoint" volumns for The Messenger; and, partly because I like to do this sort of thing, partly to reach a large Evangelical and Reformed constituency in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and nearby, 18 news-stories ranging from perhaps 800 to 1800-2000 words for the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal.

Interest in the Union

One cumulative remembrance from this tour is that, wherever I went, missionaries (not only Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed), native Christians, leaders active in such union churches as the Kyodan (United Church of Christ in Japan), Church of Christ in China (Hong Kong district), and United Church of Christ in the Philippines, are all immensely interested and expectant concerning our forthcoming Congregational Christian-Evangelical and Reformed union. The missionaries appear to feel that it will strengthen their hands in more ways than one. United Church leaders in the countries named appear to anticipate with gladness the prospect of this new augmentation of the churches which have found ways to bridge over their previous divergences in polity, doctrine and ritual, and achieve on a new level "oneness in Christ". These reactions ought to confirm and strengthen our own devotion to the union.

World Service in Korea

Two purposes took me to Korea. One was to see Church World Service at work in one of its most crucial areas, and what I saw was good. Big problem

now, CWS cooperating with and perhaps exerting pressure on local government authorities in Seoul, is to clean up conditions and management in the approximately 70 orphanages there, by initiating procedures of licensing and regular inspection. Many of them are privately operated, some of them honestly and well, others by less scrupulous individuals seeking personal profit, affording a minimum in food and shelter, disciplined leisure and loving care, and milking CWS, mission resources, and the generosity of American chaplains and armed service personnel for all that can be secured in money and in material which can be sold for the operator's gain. CWS Director James P. Claypool feels that headway is being made on this problem although the difficulties encountered are all the more difficult because local government is still heavily encumbered with the disorganization and frustration of a country sadly crippled by the exactions of the recent war in Korea and the continuing uneasiness as to what a day may bring forth from Communist North Korea scarcely 50 miles away.

With that major exception, the Church World Service picture in Korea is a heart-warming one. I regret that time and travel facilities did not allow a visit to Pusan to see the Children's Hospital to which men of our Brotherhoods contributed so generously; but in Seoul I heard grateful words as to what we had done. In the capital city, however, with the major exception of the orphanage situation, what I heard and saw of well-run orphanages and homes for aged refugees; TB, amputee and polio clinics; occupational training homes to help war widows help themselves; care and love in distribution of food, clothing and medical supplies; and the devoted missionary and CWS personnel carrying forward the work: all of it was wonderful and reassuring to be reported to pastors and lay-people back home whose generosity and stewardship are constantly appealed to for the means to keep these Christian ministries going.

Church Situation in Korea

My second purpose in visiting Korea was to learn as much as possible at first hand about the recent tragic split in the Presbyterian Church in Korea which for most of this half-century had been pointed to as the outstanding example of stewardship, evangelism and growing organizational maturity among native churches in mission lands.

While other factors were involved--personal ambition and rivalries, refugee influx from the North where a more liberal doctrinal viewpoint may have obtained, charges and counter-charges of collaboration, etc., etc.--the split appears to have been precipitated as a result of the visit several years ago of America's leading "apostle of discord", the Rev. Carl McIntyre. He lured perhaps 200 congregations into what is now referred to as the Orthodox or Bible Presbyterian Church.

Fear of further defections evidently moved the main core of the Church in Korea to tighten up its doctrinal position, make more rigid the theological obligations assented to by its ministers, and in the course of this development, to declare two professors in the Han-Kuk Theological Seminary to be heretics and that, henceforth, graduates of this seminary would not be eligible for ordination or placement in pastorates unless they would present formal affirmation and evidence of conformity to the more rigid doctrinal positions now taken.

Pastors who are graduates of this seminary and the estimated 500 or more churches they serve or which sympathize with them, feel that a cloud has been cast on their church life and witness and have tentatively organized themselves as the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, commonly referred to as the "New Church".

This leaves in the Presbyterian Church of Korea, now commonly referred to as the "Old Church", a constituency variously estimated at 1,000 to 1,200 churches.

One of the Han-Kuk professors declared to be a heretic was a United Church of Canada missionary (member of the former Presbyterian constituency in Canada) who has since retired after 40 years service in Korea. The United Church of Canada, with understandable concern, sent out a delegation to study the situation and decided to continue its support of and cooperation with the "New Church" and Han-Kuk Seminary. The Presbyterian USA Board, whose missionaries apparently endorsed if they did not encourage the tightened doctrinal strategy as a defence against the McIntyre influence, continues to support and work with the so-called "Old Church". Canadian and American mission staffs in Korea seem to have reasonably satisfactory personal relations, and the actions by their respective home Boards would appear to be inevitable and justified in the situation prevailing in Korea. But the anomaly of the situation is that the two Churches, both members of the World Council and of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches, are in the unhappy position of supporting two constituencies now assuming competitive relationships and, indeed, of themselves (the home Boards) sharing that unhappy competitive relationship.

Our interest in this tragic situation--as symbolized in my visit to Korea and by inquiries and activities over the past year--is a two-fold one. There were charges--and probably they were justified--that the "New Church" constituency was being discriminated against in the distribution of CWS aid. That situation has been remedied, I believe, not inconsiderably due to our influence and certainly as a result of the work of CWS Director Claypool.

Moreover, as also a member-church of the World Council and the World Alliance and as committed to the ecumenical movement, we have a legitimate concern wherever schism or any form of theological or ecclesiastical intolerance threatens a rupture in the Body of Christ. I have some reason to believe that my visit to Korea, my conferences with both American and Canadian missionaries, the evidence of my respect for and sympathy with the Han-Kuk Seminary and pastoral and lay leaders of the "New Church"--although all of it was on an informal and unofficial basis, and I hope tactful and discreet, but coming from the President of a sister communion who is also identified officially with both World Council and World Alliance--that all this has had a definitely helpful effect on those forces and individuals seeking to stem the tendencies to division and to bring about the healing of the breach, although the latter will take time for its accomplishment.

Sectarianism Rampant Overseas

There is an almost unbelievable proliferation of sectarianism in the Far East, not only on the part of historically independent missions but of new sects and missions, "gospel" missions, "crusades" of varying names, and, most regrettable in some respects, invasion by older denominations of mission fields where they have never had work before at all. One simply gives up as hopelessly uncontrollable the independent sects--their freedom, though it approximates anarchy, cannot be restrained here at home. But an example of what seems to have been inexcusable, what certainly now has missed a grand opportunity to encourage a less divided Christian witness overseas, is to be found in the Methodist and Lutheran establishment of work in Formosa in the last few years.

It was done on the pretext of following and ministering to their constituencies among the million or more who fled to Formosa from the China mainland. The inevitable has happened, and now they are augmenting mission staffs to evangelize the native Formosans and the aborigine "mountain people" and organizing them into churches perpetuating denominational names and loyalties, and, in the case of the Lutherans at least, even establishing a Lutheran theological seminary to further lend institutional symbol and operation to their exclusive denominational tradition. It would seem to have been so much more fully in keeping with professed commitment to the ecumenical idea if Lutheran and Methodist missionaries and their home Boards had said to their constituencies from the China mainland, "There is a strong, established evangelical Church in Formosa, identify yourselves with it and help to bring about a United Church of Christ in Formosa". The Formosan Presbyterian Church, without anticipating any such development as the flight of a million from China brought about, had already moved toward the possibility of dropping the denominational label "Presbyterian" from its name, and would doubtless have responded creatively to the possibility of becoming part of a United Church.

Sectarian and denominational division makes the task of all missionaries more difficult since it seems to give an affirmative answer to the question, "Is Christ divided?" and serves only to confuse non-Christians with a multiplicity of differing names, practices and institutions. Such divisions in Protestantism strengthen the otherwise already aggressive impact of Roman Catholicism with its united front. And sectarianism of any kind cannot help but give the impression that Christians are as concerned with competing against one another as they are with combatting paganism, secularism and the resurgent claims of non-Christian religions.

If We Undertake Work in New Areas

In connection with the sectarian situation described above, I ventured on several occasions to express a conviction on basic policy and principle which I believe will be wholeheartedly endorsed by our pastors, laity and agencies at home. In parts of Japan where we are not now officially working, in Korea, on Okinawa, in Formosa, in the Philippines, responsible native church or mission leaders expressed the hope that we might help with either personnel or financial support. There are situations and programs in these places where I myself hope we may come to participate.

But my stock reply was, "I can make no commitments and have no way of knowing whether we can respond to your request but I shall present it to my people back home. But if we do decide to help we will not do it by establishing a separate Evangelical and Reformed mission work here or in any way operating under our denominational name. We would want to participate only in cooperation with and losing ourselves under the name of a mission already established here or, preferably, with a national United Church if one exists. Our people would not want to be party to any perpetuation of denominationalism in the Christian witness overseas."

I came back from the Far East with a strengthened conviction that Western denominationalism, whatever its virtues and its historical justification, is now, especially in its actual effect in non-Christian lands, a fundamental denial of our "oneness in Christ" and, indeed, of Christ as the one Hope of the world.

General Observation on Our Far East Workers

Concerning World Service, of Korea I have written especially earlier in this report, of impressions elsewhere I have written in a general article submitted for publication in The Messenger. It is a good work, very good, warranting all that our people have entrusted to it and will in the future give to it.

I am favorably impressed by our missionary personnel in Japan and Hong Kong, their devotion to their work and its larger connotations, the talents they have brought with them to the field, their sensitivity to the sometimes delicate aspects of their position as "foreigners" and as subject to use and placement under indigenous United Churches whose primacy in determining policy and program we honor.

Mr. Gregory appears to be wholly accepted and wholly effective in his position as liaison person between the missionaries and the Board and, even more important, between the missionaries and the Board, on the one hand, and the Kyodan (United Church of Christ in Japan) on the other. The same is true of Mr. Whitener in his relations with the Hong Kong district of the Church of Christ in China. Both amaze me, since it seems like only yesterday when I knew them in college or seminary, with the ease and fluency of their use of language spoken by those with whom they labor. Both are responsible contacts or agents of Church World Service in their areas.

Evangelistic missionaries--Schroers, Kroehlers, Yearicks, Schwerdts, Beeckens, to mention only a few--have a zeal for their specific type of work, an appreciation of special forms of it in which they are respectively engaged, a personal commitment to our Lord and the Church, which make understandable their emphasis on that proportion of our mission resources which they feel their work deserves.

A large number of our people are engaged in educational missions. They are teachers in Tohoku Gakuin, or Miyagi, or Chung Chi, or Japan International Christian University. Many of them are primarily assigned to teaching English or music or kindergarten practice. Such assignments may seem one step removed from the missionary imperative--until you catch a glimpse of vital factors related to the primary assignment. Many of them also teach Bible in regular class or in volunteer groups. Those teaching music rightly recognize that their students cannot become steeped in Bach, Handel and others without partaking of the great Christian tradition out of which the treasure of cantatas, oratorios, organ preludes and offertories has so largely been derived. Most of these missionary teachers undertake regular leadership responsibilities at student Christian centers, share the life and work of native congregations. They exercise daily the silent witness of classroom presence and their influence in personal contacts with students. How even the teaching of English in a middle (junior-senior high) school can be the "open door" to evangelism is illustrated in the ministry of Mr. Beecken who almost solely through the initial personal contacts with his students, has now visited and shown life-of-Christ and other Bible pictures with evangelistic commentary on them, in more than 60 villages around the town of Annaka where he teaches.

The Sendai group, our largest concentration in Japan, was interesting on two counts. First, with exception of the Sipples, none have been on the field more than seven years. Second, with the Rev. Richard W. Rubright and his

family home on furlough, they are all lay men and women, not an ordained minister in the group.

The regularly weekly gathering of our Hong Kong missionaries in their various homes for fellowship and prayer, the table prayers wherever I visited them, the prayer in family-circles with parents and children and the visitor sometimes clasping hands to make the circle complete, participation in local congregational life,- I got the unmistakeable impression of people who, beyond their formal duties, were trying to maintain, surrounded by alien cultures, a family life which was for them--and would be for their neighbors and friends-- a little cell of Christian living, nucleus of a potentially wider "household of faith".

I have no doubt these missionaries have their personal problems and limitations, sometimes may have problems in their relations with each other, may differ in the degree of their devotion to the cause as differ we do here at home,--but I came away from visiting with them thanking God for them.

The Situation of Our Missionaries at Work

There are several factors in the situation of our missionaries at work which impressed me considerably and which, I believe, enhance one's understanding of the task of the missionary.

1. For one thing, I got the impression that missionaries are lonely people. It is not a morbid, self-pitying loneliness in which they cry on each other's shoulders or on the shoulders of "visiting firemen". It is, rather, just a sense of being isolated from the mainstream of Christian activity and fellowship and surrounded by a sea of unaccustomed moods and manners and of non-Christian religious symbols and practices. I do remember a missionary wife saying as we left a service in which I had brought greetings only and later pronounced the benediction, "You can't imagine what it meant to us, Dr. Wagner, just to hear the benediction said in English!"--although she herself is quite at home in the language of the people they work with. I suspect that,- with no deliberate intent but only the casual neglect and taking-for-granted of which all ageing and familiar things become the victims,- missionaries after a few years on the field tend to be forgotten by the home pastor and home church, by old friends, by the synod which commissioned and sent them forth. Some expressed the wish that they could be on the regular mailing list of all the boards, commissions and auxiliary organizations, so that they could keep currently informed as to thought as well as life and work at home. And the unordained and short-term workers should be included on such a mailing list. Christian affection and concern should inspire us to do our utmost to bridge the distance of half the earth's circumference in order to keep these missionaries lively members of the fellowship back home.

2. Missionaries must labor against the frustrations and sheer negative reactions of the non-Christian communities in which they work. There is no Sunday--no day of rest and worship--in these mission lands. Services must be held either at early hours before members go off to the employment they cannot afford to miss or jeopardize, or if held at traditional hours must risk the non-attendance of members who are at work. Three times during a service at Aizu-Wakamatsu a sound-truck passed slowly by the church blaring forth its raucous and disturbing tunes and spoken patter. It was on a Friday morning but might just as readily have happened on a Sunday morning.

3. Missionaries must brace themselves for the long wait to see the fruits of their labors. Converts come slowly, and--with few exceptions--one or two at a time. Korea has been said to have a larger proportion of Christians in its population than has any other mission land, yet now scarcely five per cent of Koreans are Christians. In 1890, after a quarter-century of missionary effort in Japan only one-half of one per cent of the population was Christian; and today, 66 years later, still only one-half of one per cent since growth of the Christian community has only held its own with the growth of population. Incidentally, while I was in Tokyo a story in The Japan Times reported that for the fifth consecutive year the birth rate, due to increasingly effective birth control education, had held steady with no increase. On the other hand, improved medical facilities and public hygiene had resulted in increased length of life, so the population continues to burgeon and stands now just short of 90,000,000 in an area scarcely as large as California.

4. While one sometimes feels that the old passion for missions is dying down at home, this visit to the field has brought me fresh conviction that the need for missionaries is now stronger than ever. Their place and function in the native Christian community is changing, has already changed. More and more they come, and are received, not so much as missionaries to benighted peoples as, rather, fraternal workers with native Christians who need help in making their witness to the non-Christian millions among whom the native church is yet so pitifully tiny and relatively feeble. But doctors, nurses, physical therapists, teachers and teachers of teachers, farmers and farmers wives willing and able to teach farm methods and home-making, even theological professors and men or women with accounting or other business training and experience:- I think I have heard of at least fifty strategic opportunities where consecrated men and women in such categories are needed. There are far places where Christ needs followers who are willing to lose their lives and discover, in doing so, that they are really finding them.

SOME REACTIONS AND IDEAS OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION

I begin this portion of the report by asking the reader to read once again the very first paragraph of what I have written, and I offer again an assurance that it is with great hesitation I venture any suggestions at all. I believe, however, that most of the responsible leadership of our life and work would expect me to come home not empty-handed.

1. I believe our Board should now reconsider both the extent and the strategy of its contributions to capital expenditures for the two colleges at Sendai. I am convinced that all that has been given since World War II was fully justified for such reasons as these: (1) the campuses were virtually levelled by bombings and fire, and it was good mission strategy to rebuild and to resume educational work immediately, and Japanese resources at that time were just not adequate; (2) these colleges have a long and honored tradition in the interests and affections of a large part of our constituency; (3) anything and all that we have done constitutes only a feeble act of atonement for the sin of war in which we have been involved deeply as have the Japanese and all other peoples. But these institutions are now pretty well on their feet, and so is the Japanese economy, temporary and uncertain though the latter may be and relatively low though the Japanese standard of living is. Congregational Christian mission policy, I have been told, has been to put little money into educational plant, use their resources mainly to provide personnel and help

finance program and projects. What Kobe College and Doshisha University have done, out of Japanese sources, seems to sustain the wisdom of this policy. There is something to suggest that as long as the administration of the Sendai institutions, one of them particularly, is assured that it can get much of what it asks for in capital funds, so long they will feel no great urge to cultivate and enlist Japanese resources. I believe that in the future, barring some disaster, our contributions for capital purposes at Sendai ought to be drastically reduced; and that what further contributions are considered ought to be offered conditionally--to match dollar-for-dollar what is raised in Japan, perhaps \$1.25 for each dollar raised out there, and that some system of inspection and audit may well be required to assure that projects will be carried through for which money is given and also carried through as described in the appeal originally presented. I have reason to believe that this general change in policy would be heartily approved by many of our missionaries. Further, to thus reduce expenditures at this point would make money available toward cost of certain strategies and projects suggested further on.

2. I believe our Commission has been wise and right in channeling much, and what is probably an increasing proportion, of its funds through Church World Service. This policy has enabled us to preserve in large measure the denominational anonymity in ministering to human need in which all charity and compassion should clothe itself, not letting the left hand know what the right hand doeth. This policy has, moreover, aided and abetted over-all, worldwide planning and coordination so that duplication and the giving of priority to relatively secondary claims could be averted. But we ought not pursue this policy so exclusively that missionaries on the field and other appropriate representatives in specific areas would feel barred from appealing directly to the Commission for aid in behalf of certain projects the initiation or continuance of which might be discounted in the over-all allocation of funds. I believe this observation is quite in keeping with one point of agreement in the joint meeting of August 30, namely, that a larger proportion of our World Service funds may well have been expected to have been expended through our own missionary personnel who must certainly be as close to critical situations as are regional directors of Church World Service.

3. Perhaps in part from sheer curiosity I asked in both Japan and Hong Kong whether the compensation of our missionaries,- salary and supplementary provisions,- compared favorably with those of other denominations. In both places the answer was an unqualified affirmative. In both places I was given copies of tabulations prepared previously for some other purpose, and these tabulations supported the answer our missionaries gave. However, I discovered by pressing conversation a little further in one instance that there may be a degree of insecurity felt in relation to certain matters toward the elimination of which some possible steps suggest themselves. (a) There is some concern about provision for children's college and professional education: could the Board establish some cumulative account in the name of each missionary child to be made available when the child enrolls in an institution of higher learning or vocational training; and might not our colleges, pursuant to Board consultation with them, agree on some standard provision more adequate than any now being offered? (b) A second concern relates to need of a car while on furlough: could our Board explore the possibility of an arrangement with some reliable dealer in both St. Louis and Philadelphia through whom the Board could purchase a good used car when needed for the foregoing purpose and then resell it again when no longer needed? Expense now incurred in general travel and in deputation assignments would in part offset the cost of such an arrangement. (c) There is concern as

to furlough housing especially when, if there are a number of small children, it is highly desirable to be living near the parents of one or the other or both missionaries: are we making as ample allowance as we should for rental while on furlough? All three concerns deserve careful consideration. Our missionaries undergo enough exactions and inconveniences, - and I heard none of them complain, - and we should make that precious furlough year as comfortable and free from anxiety as our resources permit. "We were able to save money regularly while we were in China," said a young missionary, "but we just haven't been able to do it since coming here, and the children's college years will be on us before we know it."

4. I wonder if our Board could work with the two college administrations at Sendai, in consultation also with our evangelistic missionaries and the appropriate committee or officer of the Kyodan, on two matters which seemed to me to have some point. There is a feeling that the Sendai schools could do a lot for churches in North Japan by sponsoring brief music (choir) schools, refresher courses for pastors, Leadership Training Schools, etc., offering these aids either on the campus during vacation periods or by deputizing faculty members at intervals to hold regional gatherings for the same purposes. Further, there seems to be no systematic plan of follow-up of students when they leave school and settle down in various communities to live and work, informing local pastors of their presence, encouraging these former students to continue and deepen through active church life whatever Christian interest has been stimulated during student days at Sendai. Is it not logical to expect these Christian colleges to exhibit definite evidence of the same evangelistic passion toward their former students and the nation's church life as was reflected in the establishment and support of the institutions themselves?

5. One missionary mother of several young children, herself active and at home in a local congregation, expressed the wish that she might have for home use with her own children the appropriate age-group materials of the Church-and-Home curriculum published by our Board of Christian Education and Publication. While I, of course, could not read any of the curricular materials used in native Church Schools, I got the impression that they were somewhat elementary compared to what would be common among us, perhaps tending toward a fundamentalist, platitudinous, Biblically literalistic type of content, lacking some of the literary imagination, pedagogical method and social concern characterizing the content of our curricular materials here at home. Cooperation between our mission Board and the Board of Christian Education and Publication ought to result in assuring to our missionary parents appropriate age-group materials for each child in their families. Pending the working out of some plan to that end, a beginning could be made by sending the Family Book regularly to each missionary home where there are children.

Open Doors for Personnel and Funds

Ideas which are presented hereafter must be understood in the light of a number of considerations which underlie them. Most of them would involve our participation in the world mission in one way or another in areas where we have not heretofore had missionary interests--Korea, Okinawa, Formosa, the Philippines. This does not, must not I think, presuppose that we would invade those areas with formal mission establishments bearing our denominational label, but, rather, through some strategy in keeping with a conviction on policy and principle expressed in the third and fourth paragraphs on page 6 of this report.

Some of these ideas, moreover, would require additional personnel when we have unmet needs in our own fields. Over against this fact are several counter-considerations. (1) We just may discover persons willing and competent to serve in some of these new fields who would not be interested in serving in fields where we are now at work. (2) If our triennial goal of enlisting 700 additional young people for full time service succeeds in any measure, we may have more ample personnel resources to draw on. (3) One wonders if we have explored and encouraged the short-term plan of enlistments as fully as we might, this plan bearing the promise that in some instances at least short-term assignees become lifetime workers. (4) For certain teaching opportunities proposed, perhaps our Board ought to capitalize on the possibility of seminary professors and professors of Bible and religion in our colleges being interested in giving a sabbatical year to short-term service. Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew will be doing this, leaving next December to teach in Hino Rural Training Institute in Japan. Dr. John A. Biegeleisen's current tour in India and Japan suggests that retiring professors, in good health and mentally acute, may be a source of academic assistance:- I met at Union Seminary, Manila, a professor serving his last year before retirement from Perkins School of Theology (Texas) and planning to remain for at least two post-retirement years. The seminaries at Seoul and Tainan, perhaps also at Doshisha, would welcome such visiting professorships.

These ideas, further, would involve expenditure of funds where none are now being expended. That this is not an impossibility is suggested by two considerations. (1) As intimated earlier in this report, if we now drastically reduce our contributions to campus building projects, substantial sums will hereafter be available for program and personnel uses. (2) In addition, we have every reason to expect that in the new triennium the increased giving of our people will provide added funds,- indeed, that their giving is likely to be stimulated all the more with the knowledge that we are undertaking new work of the kinds suggested.

Another fact implicit in some of the following suggestions is that mission work from now on will tend to devote more of its resources to undergirding and using personnel in existing native Christian communities. That is as it should be, and we can rejoice in it, since it recognizes a growing maturity in sister communions of other lands.

One further underlying consideration. It is difficult to define the point beyond which World Service should feel that some of these possibilities are not appropriate objects of its interest and support. Tainan and Seoul are good illustrations. Their needs rise most immediately out of the devastation of World War II or the Korean war. The library at Tainan was decimated if not completely destroyed or lost. The library at Seoul was, if I understood correctly, a complete loss. A major part of the limitations of these institutions is attributable to a national economy which, without and before war's devastation, was stringent enough; but that very fact results in an indefinite prolonging of the period of recovery of these institutions from the devastation of war. I know, moreover, that World Service does not need to be told that there are needs of the mind and spirit which are as desperate and as deserving of the ministries of love and mercy as are the needs of the body. Some of these opportunities, whether so specified herein or not, may well merit the participation of our Commission as well as our Board.

Personnel Opportunities

1. Doctors and nurses are needed in Seoul. Venerable Dr. E. B. Struthers must soon retire, leaving those TB clinics he set up at Severance Hospital and elsewhere. If we have no personnel available, an offer of financial aid to Korea Church World Service or the United Church of Canada mission in Seoul would help.

2. A Student Center worker, perhaps combined with the teaching of English, is needed at Shuri, Okinawa.

3. Seminary professors, especially in church history, are needed in Han-Kuk and Tainan. Here a person with A.B., B.D., scholarly inclinations and an aptitude for teaching, would suffice.

4. Professors, short-term or longer, field to be ascertained, would be welcome in Hong Kong's Union Theological Seminary, Doshisha University's School of Theology. Probable academic minimum: A.B., B.D., at Hong Kong; A.M., B.D., at Doshisha.

Opportunities Involving Financial Participation

1. Especially commended to the consideration of World Service, an initial grant of \$1,000 each to the Han-Kuk and Tainan seminaries to replenish their libraries; and, further, an annual grant of \$200 to each for the following five years to augment and bring further up-to-date these libraries. Han-Kuk, with perhaps 400 students, has not many more than 2,000 volumes; Tainan, with perhaps 200 students, not many more volumes than Han-Kuk; and in both libraries many of the books now on the shelves are antiquated or not representative of basic theological scholarship. Tainan would, and Han-Kuk also I am sure, welcome any arrangement authorizing them to order up to a maximum amount, the bill payable direct from our offices without transmission of money first to the seminaries involved.

2. Aid toward construction or purchase of an adequate Student Christian Center at Shuri, Okinawa.

3. Participation in development of some plan for training of native Okinawan pastors on Okinawa instead of sending them to Japan for training.

4. Han-Kuk Seminary plans to re-locate and rebuild on a hilly semi-circle outside Seoul city. Resources are available for this, I believe. But lowland within that semi-circle, 23 acres of it, would afford possibility of a small model farm on which to exemplify better agricultural methods and supplement resources of the Seminary by the produce of the farm. Those 23 acres can be had for about \$15,000.

5. About \$10,000 would provide a model farm on Okinawa and a fine young Methodist, Mario C. Barberi, Jr., is a graduate in agriculture from the University of Vermont. The mission there is interdenominational.

6. Aid toward building a social center on Okinawa where American adult couples (we'll have them there for a long time in this Pacific outpost we occupy!) and Okinawan couples can meet in appropriate surroundings. Once such a center is obtained, a devout, sociable, imaginative American husband and wife, lay people preferred, would be needed to manage the center and direct its program.

7. Aid to Han-Kuk's current budget. The resources of our United Church of Canada friends are hard-pressed since outside support of this Seminary now falls on them alone.

8. Aid in the form of maintenance and travel for Japanese pastors to take short-term refresher courses at Doshisha, perhaps also at rural pastors' institutes elsewhere in Japan.

9. Japanese pastors are very poorly paid, purchase of books hardly thinkable. Could we work out a plan to provide a book a year for graduates of Doshisha, Tokyo and any other school recognized by the Kyodan, for perhaps the first five years out of seminary?

10. Aid for establishment of a training and conference center in or around Tokyo for the "Homon Dendo" (lay visitation evangelism) movement which appears to be the Japanese Church's most promising indigenous movement for growth. One of our missionaries, Rev. Homer F. Yearick, is working in this movement.

11. Aid to the recently-established department of Student Work in the Philippine Federation of Christian Churches. Philippine churches appear to do remarkably well in self-support, but there is a limit, and this new department is allowed a budget of only \$2500 which must cover the executive's salary, promotion, travel, office (with no secretarial help provided), - and more than half of this budget is subsidized through the World Student Christian Federation's Mutual Assistance program (actually the money coming from Presbyterian USA sources). Here would be an excellent project for our Department of Youth Work or Department of Campus Christian Life. The executive secretary of this new department in the Philippine Federation is the Rev. David A. Sobrepeña, age 24, Bachelor of Divinity graduate of Hartford Seminary with also a Hartford M.A. in social work--a devoted, competent youth worthy of our confidence. Commitment of \$500 per year for the next five years, on condition the Federation will not reduce its budget for this department, would greatly aid a program and an executive in a strategy especially vital among education-hungry Philippine young people.

12. Two opportunities which occurred to me would require cooperation of our theological seminaries as well as the Board.

- a. One would be to make it possible for selected students from Han-Kuk, Tainan, and Union-Manila to study a year or so in America, generally at our denominational seminaries where training would be much closer to practical need than that offered in the big graduate seminaries in metropolitan areas. The Philippine Church could take care of transportation for its students, the Churches in Korea and Taiwan would probably need even travel (or most of it) subsidized by our Board. Students from all three countries would need to be provided tuition, board and room while here. Surely our Seminaries and our Board could work out some practicable plan on this! And our seminary faculty and student community would be enriched by these overseas students in their midst.
- b. It occurred to me that a unique ecumenical experiment might be, in behalf of the Han-Kuk and Tainan schools especially, if each could be "adopted" by one of our seminary campus communities--faculty and students --as an "overseas associate in preparation for service in the Church".

Implementation of such a relationship might include (1) correspondence between individual students and professors with their counterparts in the overseas school, (2) an annual student-faculty gift of love for equipment or library, (3) provision of board, room, tuition and incidentals for an overseas student on the campus of the American associate institution.

Here, then, are some of the needs and opportunities, "open doors", beyond our present overseas undertakings, which commended themselves to me among many more than these which came to my attention. We cannot, with the best will in the world, meet all these needs. "No man can hang on all the crosses at one and the same time." Nor can any Church. But any of these, and as many of them as our will and resources permit, will by so much lengthen the lines and enrich the meaning of our ecumenical mission.

Conclusion

I conclude this report with an attempt to do what I know is beyond my doing, convey some idea of the backdrop against which I have tried to recall the major impact of this tour of the Far East on my own understanding of "Christ's Call to Mission and Unity".

There were receptions and dinners in manifold succession. Among those readily recalled were: Tokyo, Executive Committee of the Kyodan; Sendai, the faculties of North Japan and Miyagi Colleges on separate occasions; Seoul, moderators of the 15 synods and the Executive Committee of the "new church"; Hong Kong, Executive Council of Hong Kong district association of the Church of Christ in China; leaders of various denominations in Manila; and dinners with missionary groups in Tokyo, Naha (Okinawa), Kyoto, Sendai, and meals in homes of various missionaries too numerous to mention, including the "old church" senior Presbyterian USA missionary in Korea. These friendly courtesies were obviously an expression of appreciation to the Church which I represented as well as of interest in and a sense of fellowship with the American Christian community and the ecumenical Church.

Everywhere there were pointed out to me buildings, equipment, program units, for which resources had been channeled through Board or Commission from the Church back home. The new, modest, but well conceived music building just dedicated at North Japan College.....On Okinawa the Dodge truck to pull the Mobile Hospital Unit, the little pastor's residence at Yomitan to replace one blown away by a typhoon.....In Seoul the TB, amputee and polio clinics which we helped to make possible, the first rough building restored so that Han-Kuk Theological Seminary could resume its important work.....In Formosa, the acting secretary of Youth Work in the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, a program aided by the "Dedicated Dollars" of our Youth Fellowships, and where Formosan young people now promote a "Dedicated Half-Dollar" plan.....In Hong Kong, the stone clinic buildings at Rennie's Mill, the Haven of Hope Sanatorium, the Servicemen's Guides Association designed to provide a pleasant place of decent contacts and religious counselling for American servicemen.....The day this is being written, December 18, Professor Cornelio M. Ferrer, of Union Seminary in Manila, told me how when he and Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew were doing graduate study at Drew University, Dr. Bartholomew's congregation at Chalfont, Pennsylvania, gave Mr. Ferrer directly the sum of \$250 which built a simple rural church now housing a Philippine congregation.

So the story has gone wherever my journey took me, giving an expanding impression that through our overseas agencies and the generous stewardship of our people we have been happily delivered from living altogether to ourselves alone; and that over all the earth lives have been brightened, souls redeemed, and the Church more deeply entrenched by the unity, mission and service to which, under God, we have begun (for surely it is only a beginning) to give ourselves.

These five weeks have constituted for me a fresh, vivid and reassuring commentary on our faith in "the holy, catholic Church". I have seen with mine own eyes these new national Christian communities in the midst of a non-Christian culture. The Churches in the lands I visited in the Far East have their limitations, largely attributable to an inadequate economy in which too many people have to live off too little arable land. They have their immaturities, understandable by reason of their comparative infancy if on no other ground. It is only a century and a half since William Carey in 1792 launched the modern missionary movement. These infant Churches in lands long steeped in Buddhism, Islam, Shinto and a sheer animism which has not by any means disappeared, evidence even now some preliminary traces of that complacency and formality which ever threatens (here at home as well) when "the first fine careless rapture" of Christian faith and experience embodies itself in institutional forms and organization. But God is not dead, and His Spirit, which is a mighty wind and a fire and a still, small voice, is at work in the Christian communions I have recently visited. Our prayer may well be that we, with nineteen centuries of Christian culture and tradition behind us, may match the holy zeal of which glimpses are to be had in these newer Churches.

Manila, December 18, 1956

James E. Wagner

January 31, 1957

REPORT OF F. A. KECK, Treasurer

To the General Council

I can report for the fifteenth consecutive year the Apportionment income has shown a considerable increase. Apportionment receipts for 1956 were \$3557,600.72 in comparison with \$3,450,810.23 for the year 1955, or an increase of \$106,790.49. This is very good for the third year of the Triennium, as the increase in 1955 was only \$96,230.04.

1956 Apportionment receipts	\$3,557,600.72
1956 Monthly Guaranteed Advance	3,276,790.00
	<u>280,810.72</u>
Less collection fees on checks	61.47
Apportionment Surplus	\$ 280,749.25

WORLD SERVICE

1956 receipts	\$749,045.84
1955 receipts	<u>653,059.29</u>
Increase	\$ 95,986.55

CONTINGENT FUND

Balance on hand February 1, 1956	\$ 6,825.03
From Apportionment surplus	24,467.06
1956 Monthly Guaranteed Advance	<u>202,500.00</u>
	\$233,792.09

Disbursements.

Travel account National Council Meetings	\$1,717.22	
National Council of Churches, additional	2,500.00	
World Council of Churches, Additional	2,500.00	
Alliance Reformed Churches, Additional	1,400.00	
Ecumenical Travel	5,000.00	
Friedensbote deficit 1954	906.60	
Commission on Church and Ministry	38,000.00	
Subsidy Synod Presidents	65,000.00	
Messenger Subsidy	57,000.00	
Messenger Promotion	5,000.00	
Lapja Subsidy	12,180.00	
Friedensbote Subsidy,	13,000.00	
National Council Dept. of Religious Liberty	1,000.00	
National Council Washington Office	700.00	
Chaplains Pension	2,493.32	
New Church Bldg. Fund	429.36	
Budget Apportionment	236.19	
Board of Business Management, Year Book deficit	5,000.00	
National Council of Churches, Dept. of Racial & Cultured Relations	2,000.00	
Lectures to our students at Yale University	300.00	
Emmaus Home	100.00	
		<u>216,462.69</u>
Balance, February 1, 1957		\$ 7,329.40

ADMINISTRATION FUND

of the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

February 1, 1956 to January 31, 1957.

Receipts.

Balance in Bank, February 1, 1956.....	\$ 27,731.04
Monthly Guaranteed Advance.....	135,000.00
From Apportionment Surplus Account.....	10,000.00
Refund Miscellaneous Account.....	166.55
Refund - Account Receivable, Dr. R.C. Stanger...	<u>300.00</u>

\$173,197.59

Disbursements

Salaries - Dr. J. E. Wagner \$11,000.00	
Dr. W. S. Kerschner \$7,500.00, Dr. F. A. Keck	
\$8,000.00, Dr. S. E. Mackey \$7,200.00.....	33,700.00
Rent - Dr. J. E. Wagner \$1,200.00, Dr. W. S.	
Kerschner \$1,200.00, Dr. F. A. Keck \$1,200.00	
Dr. S. E. Mackey \$1,200.00	4,800.00
Social Security, Dr. F. A. Keck.....	83.63
Pension Premium, Dr. J. E. Wagner \$876.67, Dr.	
W. S. Kerschner \$646.67, Dr. S. E. Mackey	
\$574.00	2,097.34
Pension, Dr. L. W. Goebel	2,400.00
Pension, Dr. J. Rauch Stein	1,200.00
Office Account, Dr. J. E. Wagner, President	10,715.53
Office Account, Dr. W. S. Kerschner, Secretary..	13,626.64
Office Account, Dr. F. A. Keck, Treasurer,.....	22,689.00
Office Account, Dr. S. E. Mackey, Adm. Assistant	7,521.79
Dr. R. C. Stanger, Vice President, Expense and	
Allowance	649.85
Travel Committee on Constitutional matter	321.27
Travel Committee on Program for Fall Meeting	
of Synods.....	387.59
Travel meeting of Study on Printing	323.46
Travel Committee on Liturgics	163.69
Miscellaneous Travel	316.36
Miscellaneous Items	38.39
Ecumenical Review, World Council of Churches,	
Subscription for members of General Council,etc.	87.00
45 M - Copies of Wagner Article in January	
Outlook	648.97
6932 Copies of Blue Book.....	3,520.33
Printing Constitution and By-Laws	113.00
25 copies of Report of Evanston	93.75
Rent Safe Deposit Box 4/28.56 - 4/28/57	11.00

Administration Fund of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church, cont.

6000 copies of proposed Amendments to Constitution and By-laws for Committee on Constitution matters	\$ 230.00	
Auditing Treasurer's accounts for year 1955	1,250.00	
Legal Services	3,000.00	
5,100 Copies of Constitutions for Congregations	350.00	
Pacific Northwest Synod - Advance for expense of Law-suit a/c First Church, Portland, Oregon ..	600.00	
Travel Expense, Administrative Committee	974.91	
General Council	6,103.09	
Committee on Correlation and Promotion	237.29	
Travel Expense General Council Representatives Synod Meeting	2,689.11	
World Council of Churches	103.35	
General Synod Expense	<u>9,064.27</u>	
		\$130,110.61
Bank Balance February 1, 1957		\$ 43,086.98

Accounts Receivable.

Dr. James E. Wagner	\$1,500.00
Dr. W. S. Kerschner	1,500.00
Dr. S. E. Mackey	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$4,000.00

EQUALIZATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSE OF DELEGATES TO SPRING SYNOD CONFERENCES

Balance on hand February 1, 1956	\$1,448.51
Monthly Guaranteed Advance	3,500.00
East Pennsylvania Synod	50.00
Refund Texas Synod	4.00
	<u>\$5,002.57</u>

Disbursements

Kansas City Synod	\$613.68	
Texas Synod	1,081.95	
Magyar Synod	220.00	
California Synod	550.59	
Dakota Synod	397.98	
Travel Expense	80.84	
	<u>2,945.04</u>	
Balance on hand February 1, 1957		\$2,057.47

UNION PLANNING FUND

Balance, February 1, 1956	\$23,176.18
Designation	100.00
Refund account of Historical Sketches	33.50
Refund account of Dr. Wagner reprint	509.35
	<u>\$23,819.03</u>

Disbursements

Travel	\$ 8,058.98	
Printing	4,357.48	
Mailing	1,449.55	
Churchmen's Brotherhood, Joint Lay meeting on Union	2,185.68	
Commission on Benevolent Institutions, account of Merger Conference	1,000.00	
To C.C. Churches for Public Relations Office	6,865.00	
The Messenger Subscription	46.00	
	<u>23,962.69</u>	
Deficit February 1, 1957		\$ 143.66

STUDENT LOAN FUND

Balance on hand February 1, 1956		\$21,763.67
Monthly Guaranteed Advance		60,000.00
Designated Gift		410.36
Refund		2,325.00
From Board of Education, Ohio Synod		1,722.94
		<u>\$86,221.97</u>
Student Loan during the year	\$67,688.00	
Commission on Church and Ministry		
Travel Expense,	2,076.50	69,764.50
Balance on hand February 1, 1957		<u>\$16,457.47</u>

RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS

For the Year Ending January 31, 1957

Cash Balance at February 1, 1956 \$ 18,287.01

RECEIPTS

Repayments on Loans to Churches	\$ 18,079.17	
Accounts Receivable (San Francisco, Cal.)	2,350.27	
Interest on Accounts Receivable	3,849.73	
Notes Payable to Board of Nat. Missions	20,000.00	\$ 44,279.17
		<u>\$ 62,566.18</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Interest Paid on Registered Note	\$ 480.00	
Interest Paid on Annuities	1,267.75	
Interest Paid on Coupon Bonds	654.50	
Interest Paid on Note to Bd. of Nat. Missions	1,877.78	
Legal Expenses	600.00	
Redeem 3½ % Coupon Bonds	34,400.00	
Audit Expense	100.00	
Notes Payable to Bd. of Nat. Missions	20,000.00	\$ 59,380.03
Cash Balance at January 31, 1957		<u>\$ 3,186.15</u>

ASSETS and LIABILITIES

ASSETS

Cash on Deposit	\$ 3,186.15
Loans to Churches*	261,807.62
Accounts Receivable (San Francisco, Cal.)	72,084.97
Total Assets	<u>\$ 337,078.74</u>
Department of Northwest Loans**	11,980.00
	<u>\$ 349,058.74</u>

LIABILITIES

Note Payable to Board of Nat. Missions	\$ 60,000.00
Registered Note Outstanding	16,000.00
Coupon Bonds, 5%, due Sept. 1, 1946	200.00
Ida Schwendener Trust Fund	250.00
Annuity Bonds	25,200.00
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 101,650.00</u>
Net Worth	235,428.74
Total Liabilities and Net Worth	<u>\$ 337,078.74</u>
Capital Department of Northwest	11,980.00
	<u>\$ 349,058.74</u>

<u>Loans to Churches</u>	<u>Balance at 2/1/56</u>	<u>Paid during the year</u>	<u>Write off during year</u>	<u>Balance at 1/31/57</u>
Grace, Baltimore, Md.	\$56,884.26			\$56,884.26
Grace, Baltimore, Md.	20,084.00			20,084.00
Grace, Bethlehem, Pa.	12,900.00			12,900.00
Hungarian, Buffalo, N.Y.	5,500.00	500.00		5,000.00
First, Burlington, N.C.	12,741.89		(I) 12,741.89	12,741.89
Bethany, Cuyahoga Falls, O.	2,400.00	1,200.00		1,200.00
Trinity, Detroit, Mich.	49,830.67	500.00		49,330.67
St. John's, Larimer, Pa.	8,200.00		(I) 8,200.00	8,200.00
Olivet, Philadelphia, Pa.	16,489.53	15,879.17	610.36	-
St. Andrew's, Philadelphia, Pa.	39,341.66		(I) 39,341.66	39,341.66
St. Paul's, Roanoke, Va.	17,070.14		(I) 17,070.14	17,070.14
Grace, Toledo, O.	12,000.00		(I) 12,000.00	12,000.00
Centenary, Winchester, Va.	7,500.00			7,500.00
Bausmann, Wyomissing, Pa.	19,555.00			19,555.00
	<u>\$280,497.15</u>	<u>\$18,079.17</u>	<u>\$ 610.36</u>	<u>\$261,807.62</u>

**)

Department of Northwest Loans
Trinity, Indianapolis, Ind.

<u>\$ 11,980.00</u>			<u>\$ 11,980.00</u>
\$ 292,477.15	\$18,079.17	\$ 610.36	\$273,787.62

(I) - Covered by Insurance Plan

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PENNA. SYNOD
FOR THE YEAR 1956

To the Rev. James E. Wagner, D. D., President of
The Evangelical & Reformed Church, and
Members of Central Penna. Synod:

The Rev. Bert E. Wynn, Full-time President of Central Penna. Synod,
Evangelical & Reformed Church, presents the following summary report of
his activities and office for the year January 1 to December 31, 1956:

We divide this report into three parts as follows:

I. Our work for the year has been very interesting. God has blessed
us with improved health over the previous year. Our fellowship with
pastors, consistories and congregations of Synod has been a very happy one.
We commend the forward look that is being taken by so many of our lay
leaders as well as pastors in the work of the Church. We are grateful to
God and the Church privilege that has been ours. May we ever continue to
be faithful to the charge that has been given us.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT for the year:

During the year your President:

1. Attended:

Synod meetings	2 (3 days)
Synodical Fellowships	3
Synodical Committee or Board meetings	15
Synodical Council meetings	7
Interdenominational Conferences	7 (9 days)
Denominational Meetings	8 (20 days)
Board Meetings of Institutions	9
Post General Synod Conferences	4
Senior High Camp	1 (6 days)
Visited Camps	3
Ministerial Group meetings	26
Men's Group meetings	19
Women's Group meetings	4
Youth Group meetings	4
Commissioning Service	1
Ordinations	2
Installations	7
Heifer Dedications	2
Consistory meetings	29
Congregational meetings	13
Parsonage Dedication	1
Local Church and Ministry Committees	6

2. Conducted Services:

Regular or Holy Communion Services	57
Weddings	2
Baptisms	3

3. Visited:

Congregations (without preaching)	15
Personal Conferences	56
Sunday Church Schools	26

4. Sent out from the Office, around:

First Class letters	2000
General Letters, including News Letters	3000

5. The above mentioned activities involved a total travel of approximately 25,000 miles and took us away from home and the office 193 days or parts of days and nights, attending 322 meetings. In addition we spent 17 days in New England as vacation.

III. PRESIDENT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

1. Travel Expense including meals and lodging (where necessary) paid from Synodical Funds:

Travel related to Synodical		
Interests	\$1173.22	
Cleveland President's Meeting	63.70	\$1236.92

2. Secretarial Help 483.82 483.82

3. Office Expense
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Postage and Envelopes | 147.60 | |
| Paper and Supplies | 172.65 | |
| Miscellaneous | 72.57 | |
| Telephone (including Tolls) | <u>216.77</u> | 609.59 |

4. Salary, etc.:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| President's Salary | 5000.00 | |
| Pension Fund | 400.00 | |
| House and Office Rent | <u>1200.00</u> | <u>6600.00</u> \$8930.33 |

5. Office Equipment 270.26 270.26 270.26
- Grand Total \$9200.59

Inventory

Office Supplies on hand	<u>\$102.11</u>	102.11
Office Equipment (cost)	1140.00	
less 10% depreciation	<u>114.00</u>	<u>1026.00</u>

Budget Allowed for 1956

President's Salary	\$5000.00*	
Pension	400.00	
Rent allowance (not to exceed)	1200.00	
Travel Expense (not to exceed)	1200.00	
Office Expense (not to exceed)	500.00	
Secretarial Help (not to exceed)	500.00	
For Cleveland President's meet.	<u>50.00</u>	<u>\$8850.00</u>

(*) General Synod Subsidizes this amount by \$2500.00

PLEASE NOTE: This report is not an audited report.

Respectfully submitted

Bert E. Wynn
Bert E. Wynn

EAST PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

Frank W. Teske, President

To the General Council

Dear Dr. Wagner:

After serving two years as full-time president of Synod, we are happy to report a certain amount of progress which is reflected in our giving and growth in membership.

Three charges, which had three congregations in each charge, have been realigned to create two church charges and the fourth is now in the process of realignment. The two church charges have freed the pastor for more intensive service.

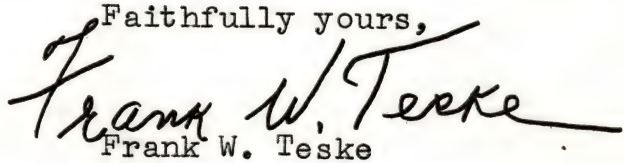
While we have been able to strengthen some of the weaker congregations a few still remain problem churches. Solution is possible in the near future when these pastors will retire.

However, the most pressing problems in our Synod are the Union churches. Out of 74 congregations, 35 are Union churches. For years pastors of the two denominations seemed to be able to work with a minimum of friction. Lately, however, there seem to be more and more clashes. This could stem from the Lutheran policy to eliminate the Union churches. In the light of our experience, which we believe is not peculiar to our Synod, we hope that General Synod's Council will have a definite policy looking forward to the time when most of the Union churches would be eliminated.

While space will not permit a detailed account of our services during the year, here are a few statistics: Presented the program of the Church 52 times at regular worship services, held 34 conferences with pastors, met 31 times with pulpit committees and consistories, attended 27 meetings of Synodical Council and committees of Synod, attended 21 meetings outside of Synod - denominational and interdenominational - and participated 14 times in installations, ordinations and anniversaries.

We have had splendid cooperation from the pastors of Synod and look to the year ahead with eager anticipation for greater service.

Faithfully yours,


Frank W. Teske

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IOWA SYNOD FOR 1956

TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

"If anyone does some service, let him do it as with strength which God supplies, so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." These words of Peter tell of the spirit in which we have sought to fulfill our task as president of Iowa Synod. We recognize that only thru the strength which God supplies could the deeds reported below be accomplished, and only as they bring glory to God are they worthwhile.

Preaching and Visiting

In the fifteen months since we assumed this office, all but twelve of the churches of the Synod have been visited in some capacity. During 1956 the president has preached fifty-two times in the churches of the Synod and five times before other groups. Thirty-seven congregations have been visited for a meeting with the consistory or a pulpit committee or some other group. The president visited eleven times with pastors, in addition to the visits made at the time of a preaching service or meeting with a congregational group. There were also opportunities for consultation with individuals at conferences and other meetings. Personal interviews were held with all students under the care of Synod who applied for loans. The students under the care of Synod at Eden Seminary were visited by the president and the students at Elmhurst College were visited by the vice-president. It is our plan to visit the students at Lakeland College and Mission House Seminary as well as those at Elmhurst College and Eden Seminary in 1957. The president visited three pastor's circle meetings, eighteen meetings of committees of Synod, eight meetings of the State Council of Churches and seven meetings of committees of the denomination. Every opportunity is used to promote the work of the Synod and the Denomination at all of these meetings with congregations and pastors.

United Promotion

Iowa Synod paid the 1955 apportionment 100%. Early in January, those churches which still had not met their quota were contacted by the president and urged to meet the goal. At the end of December of this year a letter was mailed to each church which was still not near the 1956 goal, urging full support of the apportionment. There were no non-paying congregations last year and only eight which did not meet their goal. It is hoped the record will be even better this year. Six issues of a Synod Newsletter were mailed to each pastor, and helped promote the program of the Synod and the Church.

The Advance Pilot Project

In June of this year seven consistorial conferences were set up in the Synod and a team composed of Dr. Carl Klein, and Rev. Reuben Tepp and the president presented the Advance Program of the Denomination, and a suggested advance for the Synod and the local church. The results of this campaign were reported to General Synod. The real results will show up at the end of next year when apportionment reports are in.

Consistorial Conferences

In January a series of seven consistorial conferences were conducted by the president. The purpose and function of the Church and Ministry Committee and the Spiritual Council were discussed. There was opportunity for a discussion of other

problems presented by consistory members attending the meetings and also an opportunity for fellowship. Early in January of 1957 another series of meetings will be held with Rev. Harold Wilke of the Commission on Church and Ministry as leader.

Cooperation With The Congregational Christian Churches

Two projects were sponsored in the Synod to foster cooperation and understanding between the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. The first of these was a series of four "Get Acquainted" meetings arranged with the help of the men's groups of the conference and Synod. These were set up as "Little Merom" meetings. The second project was a pulpit exchange on the Sunday following Easter. Twenty-five E & R pastors took part in this exchange.

Fall Synod Meetings

Fall Synod meetings were held in the three regions of the Synod in October. At these meetings the program of the church was presented by the members of the Boards and Agencies of the Church zoned to our Synod. A representative of each Benevolent institution supported by the Synod was also present to make a report. Three things were done in an effort to make the meetings more effective. Two pre-conference sessions were held, one with the host pastors, to plan the program, and one with the participants in the program on the night before the first conference. In an effort to help the delegates make better reports, a reporter was appointed at each conference who made a summary of the proceedings which were mimeographed and handed to each delegate at the time of adjournment. 385 pastors and delegates and visitors attended the conferences.

Heifer Project

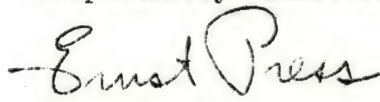
In cooperation with the Church of the Brethren and the Methodist Church in Iowa, Iowa Synod undertook to secure a boat load of heifers for shipment to Europe. Twelve animals and sufficient money for seven more were collected from churches in the Synod and shipped in October. The Rev. P. C. Fischer, of Manly, Iowa accompanied the shipment.

Iowa And Nebraska Synod Merger

In November the Councils of Iowa and Nebraska Synods met to plan for the merger of the two Synods. In a session lasting for two days the two councils worked out the details of the merger. The Articles of Agreement will be presented to a joint session of the two Synods May 15-17, in Des Moines, Iowa and if approved will go into effect July 1, 1957. The suggested name for the merged Synod is "Midwest Synod".

In closing, we wish to express our sincere thanks to Dr. James E. Wagner, the President of the Church, to the officers of the Church, the executives and staff of the Boards and Commissions and to the pastors and lay people of the Synod for their help in fostering the work of the church. We shall continue to look for that help and for guidance and strength from God, in whose name we work.

Respectfully submitted,


Ernst Press

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF KANSAS CITY SYNOD FOR 1956
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

GREETINGS!

This is the second report of my ministry as full-time president of Kansas City Synod in which capacity I have now served for 16 months.

In the period January 1 - December 31, 1956 I have visited in 56 of our 81 churches and have served in various capacities always promoting the work of the greater Kingdom, whether this was in preaching services, anniversaries, meetings of organizations or in consultation with consistories or committees. I have now been in all but 7 of our Synod's churches and hope to reach the remainder within the next several months.

CONSISTORIAL CONFERENCES

Nine meetings of Consistories (Councils) were held within Synod last fall. These were attended by 432 individuals and were presided over by members of the Committee on United Promotion. Dr. Perry Smith, Field Secretary of the Department of United Promotion, served as resource leader and presented the Program of Advance as adopted by General Synod in September. Emphasis was also placed on the Kingdom Roll Call, resulting in a larger number of churches carrying out this program. The President of Synod presented the work and program of Synod. It is quite possible that the results of these meetings can be seen in the fact that as of November 30, thirty-one congregations had paid their apportionment in full for 1956 as compared to 25 congregations a year ago with an over all increase of \$1600.00 over 1955 and \$2300.00 over the same period in 1954. Synod also again is in the 100% plus group in World Service giving. Fifty-six congregations have paid their quota in full.

At the Fall Meetings of Synod definite plans were made for Evangelism Workshops in 19 of our congregations with Rev. Robert A. Happel, Field Secretary of the Committee on Evangelism, as resource leader in these meetings early in 1957. The Committee on United Promotion and Synodical Council adopted a base of \$5.50 per capita for the Advance Program. Congregations with a membership of 100 or less are challenged to contribute 9% additional; 101 to 200 membership churches will pay an additional 18%; those with a membership of 201 to 400 an additional 27% and congregations with a membership of 400 upwards will pay an additional 36%. This is to result in the pressure being taken off of the smaller congregations whose current expenses usually are higher than those of larger congregations. This method of assessment has met with almost unanimous approval.

The Every Congregation Visitation Program is to be carried out during 1957.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. Wegener

Kansas City, Mo.
January 10, 1957

Lancaster Synod of The Evangelical and Reformed Church

REV. TRUMAN A. CRIST, D.D.

President

3100 Brookwood Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Telephone CEdar 8-8789

REPORT TO GENERAL COUNCIL - 1956

During my first year as President of Lancaster Synod I have sincerely tried to represent the Evangelical and Reformed Church as well as the local Synod in all my contacts with ministers, laymen, consistories, congregations, auxiliary organizations, interdenominational and civic groups. I have tried to uphold the faith and polity of the denomination, interpreting to the best of my ability, as need arose, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church. In every contact I made I was aware of the obligation I had to be a creditable agent of General Council.

Inasmuch as a full report of my activities will appear later in the Minutes of Lancaster Synod, I will refer to those only which have a definite interest for you as members of General Council, except to summarize my official acts, thus: 86 sermons and talks; 9 funerals, 7 baptisms, 13 weddings, (my former congregation had no full-time minister during the entire year); 51 meetings with congregations, consistories, guilds, brotherhoods, fellowships; 42 meetings, including Synodical Council, committees, Devitt Home, where I was a member of the Administration Committee and the Committee to nominate a Superintendant, Phoebe Home and Cedar Crest College; 37 conferences with ministers or laymen; 8 installation services; 10 anniversary services. During the year I have had contact, in one way or another, with all but 8 charges or congregations.

The three denominational interests which were zoned to our Synod in 1956 were stressed during the year. They were Christian Education, Stewardship and Church and Ministry. The local Committee on Christian Education did outstanding work in furthering the cause of Christian Education through conferences and work-shops on Synodical, regional and local levels. The new materials were explained and demonstrated with the result that their use was increased in the Church Schools. Field worker projects were promoted. A number of day camps were started for those children and young people who could not enter the camp program.

The Committee on Evangelism planned regional conferences to promote evangelism and stewardship through the under-shepherd plan and tithing. A number of congregations in each of our three counties planned work-shops under the guidance of a denominational staff person.

The Church and Ministry Committee, under the leadership of a layman, W. Lloyd Snyder, Jr., Esq., planned closer contact with all our students under care of Synod and increased effort at enlistment of boys and girls in full-time Christian service.

Since the meeting of Synod Presidents, work has been going on in preparation for the Every Congregation Visitation to generate interest in the Advance program. Three new Mission projects were planned for approval by the Spring meeting of Synod. Other things were done, but not enough to warrant another page for this report. In my opinion, the first year of full-time Presidency in Lancaster Synod was a good year, and, with God's help, the next will be better.

Sincerely yours,

T. A. Crist

Truman A. Crist

1956 Annual Report of the President of
Lehigh Synod to The General Council
of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

Since brevity is the jewel most to be desired in this report, (see directive of 12/12/56 from the office of the president of our church), I shall try to make it as compact as possible. May I further suggest that serious consideration be given by General Council to the complete elimination of this report, and the substitution in its place of the president's annual report which is submitted each year at the spring meeting?

All directives and suggestions submitted by the Officers and Boards of our Evangelical and Reformed Church were implimented to the best of our ability here in Lehigh Synod.

It was my pleasure to serve as a delegate-at-large to the meeting of General Synod in Lancaster in 1956. I also had the privilege of serving on the special committee of our church for the setting up of the program for the fall meetings of our synods in 1956. It was rewarding to learn of the capable and democratic way in which this task is carried out each year.

We cooperated fully with the following boards and agencies assigned to us in 1956: Women's Guild, International Missions and Pensions and Relief. Especially helpful was the pre-synod meeting conference held the night before the fall meeting with the representatives of each of the zoned agencies, their corresponding committee chairmen in synod, and the synodical council in attendance. It greatly increased the effectiveness of the zonal representatives at our synod meeting.

Much appreciated too, was the Synod Presidents' Meeting in Cleveland in November. It adds greatly to the over-all promotion of the work of the church in the local synods. Many of the presidents feel along with me that this promotion could be made even more effective were we to (1) receive regularly the minutes of the meetings of General Council, (2) perhaps meet with General Council once a year.

The work of The Department of United Promotion is being faithfully integrated here in Lehigh Synod. Last May I attended a special meeting in Philadelphia, sponsored by United Promotion, out of which grew a series of four area Kingdom Roll Call meetings last October. In September, at the time of the meeting of General Synod in Lancaster, I was in attendance at the United Promotion meeting where we made preliminary plans for an Every Congregation Visitation. Locally we have completed all plans for this Visitation in February, 1957, with all but three congregations participating!

Our record of giving to Church World Service through the impetus of the Heifer Project, Inc., continued to astound in 1956. Plans have already been made for another cooperative project with Reading and East Pennsylvania Synods in 1957.

Again we express our gratitude for the leadership and cooperation of President Wagner, Assistant to the President Mackey, Secretary Kerschner and Treasurer Keck.

Respectfully submitted,
Chas. D. Rodenberger, Pres.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MERCERSBURG SYNOD FOR 1956
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

The year just closed has brought many heart warming and enriching experiences and certainly the limited scope of this report cannot touch upon them to any appreciable degree. Synod Council, Synod Committees, Pastors, Consistories, and laymen together have rendered commendable service. I am also indebted to President Wagner, members of General Council, the Boards, Commissions, and Agencies with which I am privileged to serve in promoting the larger interests of Christ's Kingdom.

In keeping with Bylaw 66 which provides that a full time president is to "direct, supervise and promote the work of the Church" within his Synod and to report annually to the General Council, I, therefore, submit the following summary for 1956.

For the purpose of promoting a larger stewardship and a better understanding of the total program of the Church, a Synod-wide Treasurer's Conference, 4 Area Consistorial Conferences, a Kingdom Roll Call Clinic were held with large attendances. At two of the Area Conferences the Advance Program was presented in the form of panel discussion led by our General Synod delegates. Reports of successful Kingdom Roll Calls are gratifying.

Particularly in our United Promotion Efforts progress can be reported. Both Drs. Miller and Smith gave valuable counsel whenever such was requested by Synod and United Promotion Committees. To all congregations under 100% at this date I and United Promotion Chairman Gindlesperger have made personal appeals and have assurances from Pastors and laymen that special efforts will be made to achieve apportionment and World Service goals for 1956. One small congregation reported an average of \$80.00 per member toward the support of the Church. This amazing record should encourage and inspire all those congregations which are not measuring up to their stewardship responsibility - at least it's a goal at which to shoot! There were no zero congregations in 1956 and the over-all percentage of Apportionment giving will better the 97% record of 1955. World Service is already well ahead of 1955 with 117% reported.

Synod Council and United Promotion Committee unanimously endorsed the "Every Congregation Visitation". Plans are set for Synod-wide visitation during February and March, 1957. 36 teams composed of Pastors, laymen, and laywomen have been recruited with the "Visitors Training Session" scheduled for January 14th in Trinity Church, Gettysburg.

PREACHING AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS DURING 1956 ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- 142 - Visits with Pastors or prospective Pastors (at Pastor's home or in President's office).
- 62 - Visits with laymen concerning business of church or personal matters.
- 22 - Synod Committee Meetings attended.
- 38 - Meetings with Consistories, Joint Consistories or Congregational Committee on Church and Ministry.
- 54 - Sunday appointments (occasionally two or three on a Sunday) including installations, dedications, elections, anniversaries, Rally Day Services, regular preaching, etc.
- 20 - Congregational meetings, family nights, receptions, farewells attended.
- 6 - Speaking engagements with local and area Brotherhoods Federations - also attended several area Executive Committee Meetings.
- 6 - Ministerium Meetings.
- 4 - Regional and Synodical Women's Guild Meetings and one Executive Board Meeting.
- 15 - Board Meetings (Camp Michaux, Hoffman, Homewood) and anniversaries.
- 7 - Regular and special Synod Council Meetings.
- 7 - Meetings concerning Union Church matters in congregation and Synod. Taught course in York Co. E. & R. L.T. School (5 weeks).

Annual Report of The President of Mercersburg Synod for 1956 (Cont.)

THROUGH SYNOD OFFICE

Issued - Keynotes to Ministers and Women's Guild Presidents and Regional Officers (winter, fall, and Christmas); two Synod News Letters to Messenger; prepared annual reports to Synod and General Council; edited - summary of Fall Conference; 8 communications to Ministers of Synod; processed Standing Committee reports prior to Spring Meeting; prepared Spring and Fall Synod Programs; processed and mailed reports for several Synod Committees; and handled all official Synod correspondence.

IN THE CHURCH AT LARGE

Attended - General Synod at Lancaster and Synod Presidents Meeting in Cleveland; assisted in arranging for C.C.-E. & R. pulpit exchange in which 13 Ministers of Synod shared; meeting of Synod Councils of Penna. and New York States; Penna. Synod Presidents (Hbg.); United Promotion Meeting (Phila.); National Missions Conference (December) at Voluntary Service Center, Pottstown; brought greetings of Synod at dedication of Devitt Home for Aged, Allenwood; and attended Spiritual Conference, Allentown.

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

In the interest of Protestant work in Pennsylvania, I represented Synod at the annual assembly of the Penna. Council of Churches, the Church Executives Dinner (Harrisburg area), the Governor's Conference on mental health, a meeting in the interest of the proposed new Protestant Center, and served as a member of the Constitution Committee of the Council of Churches.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

For the want of a better name I list the following as extra-curricular activities:

Religious Emphasis Week - Gettysburg College;
Baccalaureate address at Southern Lancaster County Joint High School;
Mercersburg Rotary Club Ladies Night;
Carlisle Junior High School P.T.A.;
talk to Carlisle H.S. Senior Class on "Family Relations";
4 radio broadcasts, WHYI, Carlisle;
participated in Lenten-Good Friday Services;
6 funerals (officiated or assisted);
1 wedding (assisted);
Chaplain, Chi Phi National College Fraternity.

As President I am often humbled by the responsibilities of the office and am deeply grateful for the genuine spirit of helpfulness and understanding manifested among the Ministers and lay people. Many of our people both in pulpit and pew have responded far beyond the call of duty in the affairs of Synod and this makes it a joy to serve as partners with them in the Work of the Kingdom. Together with God's continued help, we shall march on with strength.

January

9
1957

Sincerely yours,

James W. Moyer
James W. Moyer, President

REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

from

Henry G. Kroehler, President of Michigan-Indiana Synod

My work as full time Synod president began on September 1, 1956. Since that date I have spoken in 18 churches in Synod as well as met with consistories and several other groups. In all of these contacts I have represented the Church and promoted its work.

September 25, 26 and 27 we held our Fall Conferences in Synod with a total attendance of 351. According to present plans we shall hold the fall meeting of Synod in 1957 in four sections instead of three.

We began publishing a monthly "Synod News", through which we distribute not only news about the churches within Synod, but also promote the work of the Church at large. The first issue was published in June, 1956 and has appeared every month thereafter.

Toward the end of the year we began to plan a program of Synodical Advance to implement the Advance of the Church. It was felt that through such planning we could more effectively bring the Advance to the local level. The planning of this synodical program continues in 1957 and the results will be presented at the spring meeting of Synod. The planning is being done through two channels: first, through the committees of Synod, who in turn receive guidance from the Boards and Commissions of the Church; secondly, through an Advance Program Planning Committee composed of lay people and pastors who are not members of the standing committees. The Synodical Council, of course, has been working with both groups.

Because we wish to have this program developed and approved by Synod before we initiate the every congregation visitation, we have postponed plans for the visitation until September, 1957.

As president of Synod, I have made plans for visiting each local congregation, meeting with the consistory in each instance as well as with a larger group of church workers and leaders in an enlarged church cabinet. I am planning most of these over a week-end, so that I can also be present in the Sunday School and Morning Worship on Sunday. Results and evaluations of these contacts must wait until later reports, since I barely got started on them in 1956.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MISSOURI VALLEY SYNOD - 1956

My term as president began January 1, 1956 with the Installation Service being held February 19 in Mt. Tabor Church where I had served as pastor for ten years. It was our privilege to have the president of the denomination, Dr. James E. Wagner, preach the installation sermon. It was a real inspiration to have the church filled to capacity, not only by pastors - but also official delegations from most of the churches.

The Synod Office is maintained in the residence purchased by the synod for the president.

During the first year in office, effort was put forth to serve the church by promoting, supervising and directing its program to the best of my ability.

Meeting with the members of the churches through the various channels, one is deeply impressed and encouraged by their loyalty and the willingness to serve the church. One also appreciates the many and varied problems with which they are confronted. Many of the pastors are giving excellent leadership in the limited time they have. One is made aware, too, that churches need guidance in the affairs of the church. One realizes his limitations as one is confronted with pastoral and congregational difficulties, problems and troubles. It was necessary for Synodical Council to make serious administrative decisions in the past year.

There have been more vacancies in our synod in this past year than in previous years and they are a major concern.

I have tried in every way possible to help the churches become better acquainted with the work of our denomination, emphasizing that its strength rests in the program and the work that is being done by the churches in the synod.

During the year I preached 49 sermons in 34 churches, visited 53 churches, met with pulpit committees, church councils or cabinets or pastors to give counsel or advice in existing problems or help plan the program of the church. I met with synodical committees wherever possible, 38 eccumenical meetings, including State Council of Churches, City Federations, Inner City Committees, etc. 4 United Promotion Clinics were planned, 3 Consistorial Rallies held and 2 Evangelism Workshops conducted. In October, 4 Sectional Conferences were held; one on a Sunday afternoon and evening which was exceptionally well attended.

25,000 copies of the "Voice of the Valley" are published monthly except July and August and are sent into every home in the synod. This publication is widely read and is an effective promotional agency for the church and gives information about the work of the benevolent institutions, the boards and agencies of the denomination and Eden Seminary.

A Survey on salary and length of tenure of pastors of the rural churches was conducted early in Spring. A questionnaire on salaries of pastors, organists, church secretaries and custodians was sent out in November 1956.

One new National Missions Church was started in April which now has a membership of 160; another Mission Church called its first full time pastor.

For the first time, the apportionment assigned to the Missouri Valley Synod has been paid in full. Looking ahead, the Advance Program for the next triennium has been enthusiastically received.

Believing that the major emphasis of the synod president should be working with the churches to seek a greater commitment on the part of the members, I am disturbed that so much time is required for promotional work.

One of the most gratifying and rewarding experiences has been the opportunity to be of service to the pastors. We are beginning to appreciate the value for a pastor to have someone in whom he can confide and share both his problems and his successes. The frustrations of the parish ministry seem to be increasing and we are grateful to God if we can be of service to the pastors.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the officers of the church, members of the various boards and agencies and all others to whom I have had to turn for guidance. There is no limit to what we in the church can do and we look to God for guidance - who has been our help in ages past - our hope and strength for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H. Rahmeier.

Paul H. Rahmeier

NORTHEAST OHIO SYNOD
2969 W. 25 Street
Cleveland 13, Ohio

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956
to
GENERAL COUNCIL

Dear Members:

During the year we have had the opportunity to promote, supervise and direct the work of the Church through these direct approaches:

1. OFFICIAL BOARD MEETINGS. In numerous instances, we met with the pastor and the governing body of the church to give a functional interpretation of the program of the Church, so that proper congregational committees might be established and trained. In this connection we offered information about the materials, services and personnel of the various Boards, agencies and institutions of the denomination. Because it is comparatively new, the Church and Ministry Committee was the focus of many questions.

On the agenda of an area consistorial conference was included the "Advance Program", which was explained by a member of General Council, a full-time denominational executive and the Synod president. The conference was planned and promoted through the Synod office.

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS. One pastor suggested that we address the annual meeting on the subject, "The Total Program of the Church". At other annual meetings we stressed relationship and responsibilities - congregation to Synod to entire denomination.

3. COMMITTEE ON UNITED PROMOTION. Cooperation between this committee, the Department of United Promotion and the Synod president has been delightful. The committee chairman and the president participated in the Training Workshop in preparation for the Kingdom Roll Call workshops in four areas of our Synod last fall. We publicized all of them and participated in two area workshops. The number of congregations that conducted a Roll Call increased considerably. The results and the enthusiasm engendered were in direct proportion to faithful effort. The Synod treasurer, the committee chairman and the president worked together in communicating with churches by means of telephone calls, personal visits, letters and articles in the newsbulletin concerning the standing and the responsibility of congregations and the pressing needs which merit a worthy financial response. Elaborate plans have been made to launch the Every Congregation Visitation program in 1957.

4. NATIONAL MISSIONS. Many days were spent with the Committee on National Missions and its four sub-committees. We helped direct surveys, explored many possible sites for new churches, encouraged

pastors of mission churches and corresponded voluminously with staff members of the Board. Synod interest in new churches during the triennium is at a new high level.

5. EVANGELISM. The Synod president, who is the author of the "Undershepherd Plan", has taken advantage of the many requests to explain its values and to suggest how it can be an effective means of informing the members of a congregation about stewardship, missions, evangelism, benevolences, Christian Education, THE MESSENGER and other phases of the life of the Church.

We participated in two National Christian Teaching Missions in Synod and included in the Guest Leader's reports to the congregations extensive recommendations with reference to the Advance Program, the use of denominational materials and basic denominational loyalties. (Copies of Guest Leader's reports were sent to the Executive Secretary of the Board of Christian Education.)

6. CHURCH UNION. The president and other pastors of Synod were invited quite frequently to appear before Congregational Christian groups to discuss the "E & R side" of the Union. We filled engagements at Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, at meetings of laymen and at area "Union" assemblies.

CONCLUSION. Our basic philosophy for this work is expressed in attitude and act by the statement that "no church is small, no church is local and no church is isolated."

It is a privilege to work together as members of the "household of God", remembering that underneath us "is the foundation, Special Messengers and Prophets, the actual foundation being Jesus Christ Himself. (Ephesians 2:20,21 - Phillips' translation).

Respectfully submitted,



Elam G. Wiest

EGW:as

NORTHERN SYNOD'S ANNUAL REPORT
for 1956

To the General Council of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church:

In compliance, and in the spirit of By-Law 66-p, the following program has been pursued in Northern Synod during 1956:

- I - The president has made it a point to present some aspect of the Larger Church in every sermon or address delivered to congregations, special groups and church councils. Since the meeting of General Synod, the Program of Advance has been widely presented.
- II - NORTHERN SYNOD NEWS, our promotional monthly, has been sent to the leaders and especially interested folk of every congregation. The work of the larger Kingdom is promoted in every issue.
- III - Besides the Boards and Commissions that were assigned to us for our Fall Regional Meetings, others were encouraged to present their special areas of promotion and concern to our churches:
 - 1 - The Women's Guild, held workshops, and also had speakers at special regional and synod wide meetings.
 - 2 - Churchmen's Brotherhood - speaking engagements.
 - 3 - Christian Social Action - held 6 institutes.
 - 4 - United Promotion - speaking engagements,
met with synodical committee.
 - 5 - International Missions - 2 week speaking tour.
 - 6 - Christian Education - 5 workshops.
- IV - National Missions received much attention:
 - 1 - First Mission Church in 35 years built and dedicated.
a-Synod raised \$20,000 to bolster this mission church.
 - 2 - Efforts were made to extricate Board of National Missions from unfortunate situations in Synod.
 - 3 - Future possibilities were studied.
- V - We hope that the increased giving of our Synod to the apportionment is to some measure the fruit of our labors in behalf of the larger church.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Reifschneider

REPORT OF PHILADELPHIA SYNOD'S PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1956
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Dear Brethren:

GREETINGS! (To comply and confine this to the space of 1 sheet 1 "No waste words; Make Long story short." And no quote Scripture).

VISITS. A first "round" of the congregations was completed and a second begun. Visited 58 congregations; preached at 27 of them. It is a rewarding experience to fellowship, and get ever better acquainted, with congregations of fellow believers and with fellow pastors.

A PRE-SYNOD MEETING of all Elected Committees, to prepare reports and coordinate plans, was held prior to Spring Synod Meeting, and with success. Surely, we will want to repeat the procedure.

A MASTER PLAN STUDY was made of the Synod, to "spot" the residences of members of all our Churches. ALL of our Churches reported. From the results an "Overall Strategy" is being prepared. To begin with it indicates the direction in which we should establish new congregations. It confirmed our feeling that a new mission should be established in lower Bucks County. First steps toward that end have been taken. In addition, two of our downtown Philadelphia congregations are taking steps toward relocation.

KINGDOM ROLL CALL CLINICS were more of a success ~ better attended. They were geared into or anticipated The Advance. The congregations at the Fall Meeting of Synod accepted the increased Apportionment goals in fine spirit. May this portend a genuine advance for our Synod.

PLANS FOR EVERY CONGREGATION VISITATIONS from January 7 to 31 by 20 teams were made. The response on the part of both Ministers and Laymen to serve on the teams was excellent. The response on the part of congregations to accept teams was not as good ~ four could not or would not cooperate.

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS in the field of Christian Education were turned in to our office as depository and issuing agency. United Promotion of Synod also plans to do so. 13 requests were filled since November 1.

APPORTIONMENT GIVING held up. Except for just a few congregations, who have their reasons, we'd be a 100% Synod by 100% of our congregations. But with over-payments by some and an overage by all congregations we aim to put Synod over the mark, again.

IN WORLD SERVICE we will again be well over the quota. 25 heifers were donated and went with 2 shipments to Western Germany. They were accompanied by one of our pastors and three of our laymen. 2 German refugee families and at least a dozen Hungarian escapee families were sponsored. One of the latter, a family of five, was sponsored by a Hungarian family brought into this Synod in 1949. Co-sponsor was the Church who in 1949 sponsored the sponsoring Hungarian family, and never once regretted it.

FOUR VACANCIES were filled during the year by elections, leaving but one regular vacancy, and that one only as of September 30th. It is a great help to have no more of a "casualty list."

WITH GRATITUDE to God for His continual grace and to all co-workers for their cooperation and forbearance, this is

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmer H. Long

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF PITTSBURGH SYNOD FOR 1956

To the General Council:

On October 31, I concluded four years as a full-time synod president. Experience has brought me face to face with a situation similar to that which Jesus describes in Matthew 9:37: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." This he said, in his compassion for the crowds, when he saw them harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Congregations without pastors are like sheep without shepherds, harassed and helpless--harassed and helpless to make real progress in the work of the Kingdom. Due to the grave scarcity of ministers in our Church, too many congregations have to go for long periods of time without a pastor. "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Problem of Vacancies

The problem of vacant charges became particularly acute during 1956. Our numerous vacancies present a real obstacle to the effective promotion of the program of the Church: 1. Partly because of the lack of pastoral leadership; and 2. Partly because of the great amount of the president's time consumed in the effort to find ministers to fill the vacancies. During the year, I tackled the problem from three different angles: 1. I appealed to consistories and committees on church and ministry to undertake the maintenance of good pastoral relationships in order to keep their present pastors; 2. I solicited the help of all ministers in the effort to find pastors for our vacancies; and 3. I challenged pastors and congregational lay leaders to undertake a program of recruiting young men and women in their respective congregations for the ministry and full-time Christian service.

Field Work

Fifty-one of our 150 congregations were visited during the year; ten of them more than once. I preached on 39 different occasions. I attended three congregational meetings. Twenty-four conferences were held with consistories and committees on church and ministry. I attended 17 meetings of boards and committees within the Synod, nine denominational meetings, and two interdenominational conferences. I made 82 calls on ministers.

Eight meetings of area ministerial associations were attended. At two of these, I spoke on the Union of the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. I led a discussion on the Lancaster meeting of the General Synod and the denominational program at two other meetings. I also attended and spoke at various Brotherhood, Women's Guild, Consistorial, and other gatherings. Numerous conferences were held with individuals and representative groups.

United Promotion

I met a number of times with Synod's Committee on United Promotion and with Dr. Perry L. Smith, National Field Secretary, to plan promotion within the Synod. Six area Kingdom Roll Call Clinics were held during the year.

The standing of congregations as to payments on General Synod's Apportionment and World Service was published in four issues of the PITTSBURGH SYNOD NEWS. Pastors, consistories, and congregations were challenged to meet the full amount of their Apportionment and World Service quotas. Following the release of Treasurer Keck's report for November, I sent a letter and a

statement on payments to all pastors and consistories of congregations that had not paid at least eleven-twelfths of their benevolent obligations by December 1. At the close of December, the congregations had paid \$2,478 more on the Apportionment and \$1,910 more to World Service than for the corresponding period in 1955.

The Advance Program was presented at our six area Fall Meetings, which were attended by 772 persons. I spoke at the six area meetings, presenting in outline the Advance Program and challenging those present to make a new advance in Kingdom work. The zonal representatives presented the work of their respective boards and commission. The chairman of our Committee on United Promotion presented the Apportionment and World Service goals for each of the congregations for 1957.

Preliminary plans have been made and sent to all pastors and consistories for an Every Congregation Visitation within the Synod, April 23 - June 15, 1957, for presenting and interpreting the Advance Program on the congregational level.

Exchange of Pulpits

In co-operation with Dr. Cleon Swarts, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches, I arranged an exchange of pulpits between seven Evangelical and Reformed ministers and an equal number of Congregational Christian ministers within the Synod.

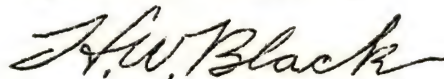
Pittsburgh Synod News

I edited and managed the publication and distribution of the six issues of the PITTSBURGH SYNOD NEWS through which we undertake to promote the interests of congregations, organizations, and institutions of the Synod, and the program of the Church. Each issue included approximately 15,700 copies.

Appreciation

In closing, I express my appreciation to the officers of the Church and to the members of the staffs of the various departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of the Church for their helpful co-operation in carrying out the duties of my office.

Respectfully submitted,



H. W. Black

POTOMAC SYNOD
The Report of the President
to the
General Council
of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church

The year 1956 was a full and fruitful year for the President of Potomac Synod. Much of the time during the early months of the year was given to visiting with pastors, consistories and congregations.

The President of the Synod together with the Synodical Council planned the Spring Meeting of the Synod. During the sessions a forward looking program was adopted.

The President of the Synod met with the committees of the Synod to help plan the work of the committee for the year. On September 18th the Chairmen of all the committees of the Synod met with the Synodical Council and plan program for the fall and winter.

During the month of October the President presented the denominational program at the Fall Meetings of the Synod. He also attended the Consistorial Conferences in the areas of the Synod and presented the Advance Program.

The President worked closely with the Committee on National Missions to determine where new work should be started. A new congregation with 67 charter members was organized on December 2 in Hagerstown, Maryland.

During November and December the President and the Committee on United Promotion set up the Every Congregation Visitation Program for the Synod.

Through the year the President has received splendid cooperation from the pastors and lay leaders of the Synod. He is grateful to them and to the officers and staff members of the various departments, boards, commissions and agencies of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick D. Eyster
Frederick D. Eyster
President

January 1, 1957

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF READING SYNOD
YEAR 1956

To the General Council of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church

Dear Brethren

The past year has enabled me to become better acquainted with the privileges and responsibilities of the full-time office of the President of Reading Synod. This report should speak of the loyalty and devotion of the pastors and members of the consistories of our Synod. I am amazed again and again at the faithfulness of these devoted men and women. Our endeavors to fulfill the privileges that have been assigned to us were in the field of Promotion and Visitation.

PROMOTION

During the year one conference on Stewardship for pastors and consistories and a conference for treasurers and financial secretaries was held. By action of our Synod, Mr. Bruce Wickhiser of the Theological Seminary, during the past summer, made a survey of two of the areas of our Synod. The one section was that area around the Falkner-Swamp Church. This is the oldest church in our denomination. In recent days rather an active building program has been taking place within the confines of this parish. The other section is the Muhlenberg Park area, which is located north of the City of Reading. After a study of this survey and assistance from the Board of National Missions, we hope to be able to give guidance to these particular parishes. The formation of a Berks Federation of Churchmen's Brotherhood holds promise for further service to the Synod.

The delegates of Reading Synod after they returned from the meeting of the General Synod, reported on the actions of the General Synod, meeting in seven areas of our Synod. The attendance at these meetings was approximately six hundred. We are confident this has given vision to many of the leaders of our church pertaining to the "Advance Program".

One of the major problems within the Reading Synod is that half of our congregations, or fifty-three, are part of Union Churches. With the Committee on the Town and Country Church, a conference was held with all of the pastors and representatives of consistories as to how more faithfully the work of the denomination could be motivated, in these particular congregations. Study was also given to realignment, merger, and dissolution. We do report that during the year one of these union congregations, Plow Church,

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF READING SYNOD
YEAR 1956

merged with a neighboring congregation. Without being prophetic, we know that in this particular area the major portion of our time and labor in the foreseeable future will be spent.

VISITATION

I have visited seventy-four consistories, counseled with twenty-six pastors and accepted fifty-four preaching engagements. At this writing, we are happy to report that all of the congregations and charges of the Synod have pastors, but with seventeen of our brethren having served more than twenty-five years in their present pastorates, we are rather certain that future days will see retirement on the part of several of these faithful pastors.

May I express my appreciation and gratitude to the officers of the church; and to the members of the Boards and Commissions; for their cooperation and their guidance. Not all, we are certain that should have been done, has been taken care of, but we press on with the work confident in its rewards and assured more than we were last year of its value to the Synod and to the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Faithfully yours,

Paul T. Klinghoff

REV. LONNIE CARPENTER
VICE-PRESIDENT

Southern Synod
Evangelical and Reformed Church

RUSSELL SIDES
LAY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

HARVEY A. FESPERMAN, D. D., PRESIDENT
204 LANTZ AVENUE
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

MAIL ADDRESS - BOX 368, CATAWBA COLLEGE

Report to General Council - 1956

In my second report to the General Council as President of Southern Synod, the following matters according to By-Law 66b should come to your attention:

In promotion the work of the Church in the Synod I have traveled a total of 15,500 miles in my car during 1956. Most of the churches in the Synod were contacted in this way including the churches in Florida. I have kept a daily record of my activities in the form of a diary.

While you are not primarily interested in statistics as a Council, the following facts should perhaps be noted: Sermons and addresses in the Synod - 48; conferences with consistories and committees on Church and Ministry and with ministers - 100; Council meetings - 11. In addition I have attended numerous conferences of the Women's Guild, the Youth Fellowship, conferences at Blowing Rock and Brotherhood meetings, the President's Meeting, etc.

President's House

The President's home was completed the latter part of August and moved into on August 23. The house provides adequate living quarters and offices and was provided at a total cost of approximately \$40,000. This amount has been allocated to the churches of Synod covering a period of three years.

Fall Meeting of Synod

The Fall Meeting of Synod was held at Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C., on October 23, with the largest attendance in a number of years. Fraternal delegates from the Southern Convention of the Congregational Christian Churches were Dr. and Mrs. F. C. Lester of Asheboro, N. C. Dr. Lester is editor of the "Christian Sun". Representatives from the Church at large were: Dr. Silas P. Bittner, Miss Florence Partridge and Dr. Dobbs Ehlman.

Vacancies

As of January 1, 1957 there are eight vacancies in the Synod. Most of these are rural churches and can pay only the minimum salaries; hence, the more difficult to fill. Only two young men from the Synod will graduate from the Theological Seminary next spring. It is expected that they will request assignment to Southern Synod.

Apportionment

The Apportionment has been paid in full for the fourteenth consecutive year. World Service has also been paid more than 100 per cent. The Advance Program will be presented to all the congregations of Synod during January and February with thirty-two ministers and laymen making the visitation.

On the whole the Advance Program has been well received. Training sessions were held for the visitors the latter part of November, with practically 100 per cent of the visitors attending.

New Church Proposed

It is expected that another congregation will be organized in Winston-Salem during 1957. The project has been approved by the Board of National Missions as one of the new congregations for this year. A special committee is in process of finding the right location and purchasing a lot.

"The Standard"

The President of Southern Synod continues as editor of "The Standard", semi-monthly paper published by the Synod. The paper goes to every family in Southern Synod, and approximately 7,200 copies are put in the mails twice each month. The Synod subsidizes the cost of approximately \$5,000 a year. This is a good investment locally and for the Church at large.

The labors of the year have been interesting and rewarding. We believe that 1957 will be the greatest year of all for Southern Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. Fesperman, President
SOUTHERN SYNOD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH INDIANA SYNOD FOR 1956

TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

At the end of my first full year in the office of President of South Indiana Synod, I recall Paul's words to Timothy, "I now remind you to stir up that inner fire which God gave you at your ordination". This is not only true as we constantly seek to press the needs and the dreams of the Church against the hearts of our pastors and people, but it speaks directly to the condition of one who, as often as not, experiences conditions and situations among our churches and leaders that are not at all uplifting nor inspirational. Therefore, as leaders, we must strive daily for spiritual renewal and for an approach to our task that is just as sensitive as it can possibly be. If the fire of The Spirit burns clearly in our hearts, the radiance and warmth can not help but affect all that we attempt to do.

This strength of The Spirit made it possible during this past year to very definitely improve two situations that have needed assistance for many years. We were able to bring our two churches at Fort Branch, Indiana into a charge relationship for the first time under the very capable leadership of Rev. Theo F. Mehl; the result of a division in membership nearly 40 years ago, these two small groups are now working together very nicely. We have also been able to bring into reality a united congregation in Terre Haute, Indiana of three previous groups, two of which have been receiving mission aid for a great number of years. Rev. Glenn O. Martensen, from Sappington, Missouri, will lead this new congregation as they attempt to relocate and build a new sanctuary. These are only examples of what a full-time President has the time to do in addition to the routine duties to which he must attend.

Although we were able to accomplish our Apportionment Goal 100% for 1956 (according to Dr. Klein we were the first synod to have this distinction, which came on the afternoon of January 4, 1957) we plan a vigorous Advance Program which shall reach through 1957 and well into 1958. Early in March a Planning Conference is scheduled with our key pastors and laymen coming together to formulate recommendations to be brought before the Synod. When this Program is adopted, we hope to make it an adaptation of the North Illinois and Iowa Advance Programs, strengthened by our experience with the "Sector Roll Call" which we used as a Pilot Project in a number of our churches this year. Although the first phase of our Synodical Advance Program, which we hope to name "Faith in Action", will be along the lines of United Promotion and Stewardship, the second phase will be directed toward Evangelism, during which time we hope to increase the membership of our Synod by 5,000 souls.

I have been blessed by the great number of highly qualified men with whom it has been my privilege to share and work, among whom is Dr. J. R. C. Haas, the newly elected Vice-President of our Denomination, who has strengthened my hand immeasurably by his counsel and advice. I also wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Pastors and people of this Synod for their excellent cooperation and to the various Boards, Agencies, and Officials of the Denomination for the splendid cooperation and assistance they have given me as I attempted to fulfill my duties and obligations.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry W. Bredeweg
Harry W. Bredeweg

Annual Report
to

The General Council of The Evangelical and Reformed Church
by

The President of the Southwest Ohio Synod

Greetings in Christ:

It is a pleasure and honor to submit this second report as the President of the Southwest Ohio Synod. The manifold duties and responsibilities have increased during this first full year, and I have tried to approach them with loyalty to the Church, to the denomination, and to the Synod. My gratitude is again expressed unto God, Who at all times has 'stood by me'.

The two meetings of Synod were held: the spring meeting held in First Church, Hamilton, Ohio; and the fall meeting in St. John's Church, Batesville, Indiana. The Synod President's meeting held in Cleveland was attended, as well as General Synod as a voting delegate. The Ohio Pastor's Convention was attended, as well as the Seminar in Washington, co-sponsored by our denomination. Several meetings were held with the other Ohio Synod Presidents.

Office space was rented in a down-town office building for the work of the Synod. A monthly Synodical letter is sent to the Ministers and Secretaries of the congregations, consisting of Synodical Council action, and other announcements and items of interest. Congregational items are not included. This has greatly added to the interest within the Synod.

Besides the regular routine of the office, several difficult situations were brought to attention. Committees in vacant congregations have been met. Pastors desiring a change have been visited. Meetings for the Congregational Visitation of The Advance have been scheduled, and are being held in January of 1957. Each local Church is being asked to set their goals, and to take the message of The Advance, together with their own goals, into each home. Thus, every member will be fully informed.

Sixty seven sermons (including addresses) have been preached on forty-nine Sundays. (Three vacation) Three hundred and forty-six engagements have been met during the year, plus many visitors coming to the office.

I have tried to perform the duties as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, especially those referring to this office.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence K. Gebhart

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF S. WISCONSIN
SYNOD

To the General Council:

In compliance with Dr. Wagner's request and by force of circumstances, this, my first report as full-time Synod President, will be brief.

I was elected to the office of full-time President at the spring Synod meeting, May 17, 1956 and took office on August 30th, in time to be eligible to attend the meeting of General Synod. Installation services were held in St. John's Church, Monroe, where I had served for 18 years, on October 14. Dr. Robert Stanger, Chicago, First Vice President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, preached the sermon and Dr. Albert Gonser, Milwaukee, member of the General Council, presided as installing officer, assisted by the officers of the Synodical Council. I continued serving my church until the end of October. Since then the office of the President has been established at 218 W. Newhall Ave., Waukesha, with home and office combined.

During the month of September, in cooperation with the Committee on Church and Ministry, Consistorial conferences at several strategic places in each of the three regions were conducted. Our delegates to General Synod served as leaders and reported on the highlights of the actions of General Synod, particularly with reference to the Advance and the coming merger.

At present final arrangements are being made to carry out the EVERY CONGREGATION VISITATION, with training sessions scheduled in each of the three regions the latter part of January. The Visitations are to be carried out during the last three weeks of February. To date fifteen teams have been enlisted and, as a whole, pastors and congregations have shown a fine spirit of co-operation.

Our most acute problem is the filling of vacancies in small rural charges, which still resist every effort to combine them with neighboring churches. I have been meeting with such a group of ten churches who are being served by six pastors, looking toward a realignment for more effective service.

For March 22 we have scheduled a meeting with Mr. Buckwalter of the National Council of Churches, to appraise the entire financial needs of both North and South Wisconsin Synods and of their educational and benevolent institutions.

The President of Synod has met with most of the Committees, viz. United Promotion, Christian, Christian Education, Church and Ministry, National Missions, Benevolent Institutions and Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. The latter will hold their annual meeting here in Waukesha, January 15.

In the short time that we have been in office we have learned that the field of service is unlimited, but the time at our disposal is limited. We are grateful for every help that has come to us through the officers of the church and the members of the Synodical Council and fellow pastors. We pray that God may give us strength and wisdom to fulfill our duties in this important office, to His glory and the strengthening of the churches in the cause of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

P. C. Kehle

Paul C. Kehle, President.

TEXAS SYNOD

To the General Council:

The year 1936 has provided many opportunities to "direct, supervise and promote the work of the Church" in Texas Synod. Pastors and Congregations have come to recognize, more and more, the value and potential of the full-time president's office.

It has been my desire to labor under the direction of the Holy Spirit and to remember that the Church is composed of Pastors and people, who must be encouraged and informed.

Following is a brief statement of my activities:

1. Fall Synod Meetings---presided over five area conferences with a total attendance of 462.
2. Synodical Committees---met with all committees and assisted with planning and execution of their programs.
3. Kingdom Roll Call---accompanied Dr. C. Klein to five Clinics; encouraged congregations to meet quotas in full by letter and visitation.
4. Texas Council of Churches---E & R Church has not been well-known in Synod, and I have actively served on the Board of Directors.
5. Union with C. C. Churches---have delivered a number of addresses on this subject and have encouraged pastors and consistories to study Basis of Union. There has been much skepticism regarding the wisdom of the Union.
6. Mission Churches---Synod is encumbered with an unusually large percentage of small churches, unable to meet salary and apportionment quotas. Recently combined Gay Hill with Burton and Kurten with Bryan.
7. Fostered fraternal relations with Czech Moravian Brethren with eventual union with them a definite goal.
8. Pastor to pastors continues to be a real source of encouragement.

My thanks to the General Council, Boards, Commissions and Agencies for cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully,

John G. Mueller
President

WEST NEW YORK SYNOD

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: Julius W. Kuck

January 1, 1956 to January 1, 1957

To The General Council of the
Evangelical & Reformed Church

Dear Brethren:

The President is most grateful for the many courtesies accorded him by the pastors and members of the Synod and by the officers and leaders of our E. & R. Church. Also I have enjoyed the inspiration and fellowship of many leaders of other denominations in the local and state councils. We thank God for this ever growing fellowship in the Gospel of Christ.

Some of the major events and projects of 1956: (Summary)

Synodical Conference for Leaders of Youth, January 29.
Social Action Institute, February 19
Audio-Visual Workshops, the week of April 8.
Heidelberg College Concert Choir, January 30-31.
Pulpit Exchange, C.C. and E&R Pastors (18 Pastors), April 8.
Pre-Synod Conference for Committees of Synod: Preparation of their reports to delegates of Spring Meeting, April 24.
Board of National Missions, Dinner with pastors and members of consistories, St. Andrew's Church, Buffalo, May 21-23.
Spring Synod Meeting, May 22-24, St. John's Church, Dunkirk, N.Y.
Accepted a modified Advance Program - Voted for the Union -
Approved a larger Synodical Budget. A fine Christian spirit prevailed throughout the sessions.
Women's Guild Synodical Spring and Fall Conferences (Pres. participated)
Churchmen's Brotherhood Conferences (Two addresses by President)
Kingdom Roll Call Clinics, September (President served as a leader in 9 clinics) Joint Clinic with Congregational Christian Churches.
Conference on "The Church in the Changing City", Buffalo, April 23.
Students and Pastors met August 29 for the Annual Dinner. President addressed the group. Sponsored by Church & Ministry Committee.
General Synod, Lancaster, Pa. August 31-September 7
Get Acquainted Meetings in Four Areas during September, C.C. and E&R Congregations. Nearly 700 persons attended these meetings. Many young people.
Fall Synod Meeting, Emanuel Church, Rochester, N.Y., October 2.
Many favorable comments from delegates. Brief reports from the ten delegates to General Synod.
Evangelistic Visitation Mission, October 21-28: Erie County, N.Y.
President served as a Director of a district. Twenty E&R Churches participated in this program.
Pastor's Conference, Syracuse, N.Y. Joint project of New York and West New York Synod, October 16-17.
Synodical Cabinet Meeting, Nov. 28. Chairmen of committees discussed goals, projects and program for 1957 with Synodical Council.
Conference with Students under the care of Synod, December 28.
President's office.

The President has preached or addressed a congregation almost every Sunday during 1956 - very often twice and sometimes three times. I counselled many pastors and lay leaders, met with many committees, served as pastor to pastors and their families, participated in inter-denominational council programs, etc. (We keep a record of all appointments.) One of our major concerns is to find pastors for our vacant churches. As goes the Pastor, so goes the Church. We pray for grace, wisdom and strength for all our people, that together we will obey Christ's Call to Faith and Action - Now!

Respectfully submitted:

Julius W. Kuck

WEST COAST AREA - EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Area Council:

Rev. T. H. Van Dyck, President,

Rev. John Flucke, Rev. August Elshoff, Rev. Edwin Gunemann
Rev. Ernest Tischhauser, Mr. A. N. Brekke, 2411 W. 60th. St., Seattle,
Mr. Allen Lindsley, 1318 Middleton Court, Los Altos, Cal.,
Treasurer.

Office: 228 McAllister St., Room 211, San Francisco 2, Calif.
Phone: HEmlock 1-3131 (after business hours: HEmlock 1-3135)

President's Residence: 316 Font Blvd., San Francisco.
Telephone: JUniper 5-6345. -

Report of the President for 1956.

In keeping with the suggestion that this annual report to the General Council be kept brief and in summary form, I shall try to summarize 1956 activities under four program areas: administration, visitation, church extension and promotion.

In the area of CHURCH ADMINISTRATION:

- Endeavored to keep in close contact with the two Synod Councils.
- Attended six Synod Council Meetings; ne Area Council Meeting; two Spring Synod Meetings; the General Synod Meeting, Lancaster; the Synod Presidents' Meeting, Cleveland.
- Problem situations arising in a few churches in each Synod required additional conferences with consistories, Synod officers and committees.

In the area of VISITATION:

- Have had contact with all pastors and congregations in the Area through correspondence and regional conferences.
- Visited all except two of the churches in the Area and/or preached and held meetings with congregation or consistory. In the light of some special need, a number of congregations were visited several times.
- Visited among pastors retired and without-charge as widely as possible.
- Participated in four Pastoral Circle Meetings, one Ministers' Retreat, one Churchmen's Brotherhood Retreat, one Youth Rally.

This visitation, coupled with attendance at meetings, conferences, etc., kept me on tour fully half the days of 1956 (on tour: 172 days; in San Francisco office - including a number of Bay area field trips -: 173 days; vacation: 21 days). It afforded me opportunity to preach 38 sermons (two at installation of new ministers, several at anniversary celebrations) and to deliver an additional number of addresses and devotional meditations.

In the area of CHURCH EXTENSION:

- Attended the meetings of the Mission Committees of both Synods.
- Shared the study of new fields and the search for new pastoral leadership.
- Represented our Committes in Comity Department of Councils of Churches (particularly in N. Calif. and Washington).

- Devoted a number of visits and considerable time to new missions in San Diego; Parkway Estates, Sacramento; Lake Hills, Bellevue, Wash.; San Jose-Sunnyvale, Calif. project; Glendora, Calif.; and at least one visit in Ephrata, Washington; Colton, California; Lancaster, California.
- General participation and one presentation in Area Mission Workers Conference, Oakland, Calif. - Dec. 5-6.

In the area of PROMOTION of denominational program:

- Arranged and shared in conducting nine Consistorial Conferences covering the Area. Helpful leadership provided by Rev. Harold Wilke, Ex. Sec. of Comm. on Ch. and Min.
- Participated in two C. E. "How to Teach" Workshops: director of P.N.W. workshop, worship coordinator in Calif. workshop.
- Shared with C. C. leaders in arranging four K.R.C.-E.M.C. Clinics
- Launched publication of Area paper - WEST COAST AREA BULLETIN.(quarterly)
- Preparation for and leadership in four Fall Synod Meetings.
- Attention given to channeling E & R World Service Flood Relief in Northern California early in 1956.
- Work with Councils of Churches: San Francisco, N. California, Washington State (Exec. Committees, Overseas Relief, etc.)
- Arranged itinerary and various assistance for denominational representatives and visitors in the Area.
- Shared a Community Preaching Mission - Quincy, Washington.
- Looking toward the establishment of the UNITED CHURCH attended and spoke at four Congregational Christian Conferences during the year (Idaho, Washington, Oregon, N. Calif.). Shared in other projects sponsored by C. C.: School of Churchmanship, Church Extension Committee Meetings, and the Laymen's "Get Acquainted" Meeting (E & R and C C).

1957 promises to be an equally busy andchallenging year. Major effort shall be dedicated to:

- Promotion of our denominational program of ADVANCE.
- Strengthening and extending National Mission enterprise in the Area.
- Sharing the search for solutions for problems which continue to trouble a number of congregations rather seriously.
- Creation of stronger bonds of fellowship among our rather widely scattered congregations through visitation and such other helpful service as may be possible.

In conclusion, we would once again express sincere appreciation for the generous support and encouragement of the Church, given through the General Council and our various Boards and Commissions, to all our work in the West Coast Area.

Thos. H. Van Dyke.
President.

WEST COAST AREA
Evangelical and Reformed Church

FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 1956

January 14, 1957

Opening Balance January 1, 1956

\$ 1,655.88

Income:

Partial 1955 P.N.W. Subsidy paid in 1956	\$ 150.00	
Post Office Deposit Refund	80.89	
General Synod Equalization Refund	50.00	
*Miscellaneous Income	42.50	
1956 California Synod	1,719.00	
1956 Pacific Northwest Synod	825.00	
**1956 Regular Subsidy	2,500.00	
**1956 Additional Subsidy	6,589.00	11,956.39
Total		<u>\$13,612.27</u>

Disbursements:

President's Salary	6,000.00	
" Annuity	480.00	
" Housing	1,116.00	
Travel	2,019.15	
Office Expense		
Rental	480.00	
Secretary's Salary	844.54	
Area Bulletin	287.07	
Other	983.52	<u>\$12,210.28</u>

** Closing Balance December 31, 1956

\$ 1,401.99

* Misc. Income - gift from P.N.W. Churches
subsequently disbursed back to P.N.W. Synod Treasury

** These items include amounts advanced by Mr. Keck as subsidy for January, 1956.

FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Received from the Mission on World Service, Evangelical and Reformed Church \$5,000.00

<u>Disbursements</u>		
Jan. 9, 1956	Rev. T. K. Nace	\$300.00
"	Rev. Jerome Holmes	900.00
"	Rev. T. K. Nace	500.00
"	Orral Clay Etna	200.00
Feb. 14, 1956	Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Enos	400.00
		<u>2,300.00</u>
		\$2,700.00
July 7, 1956	Returned to fund	250.00
	Balance in fund Nov. 11, 1956	\$2,950.00
	Disbursed to Commission on World Service	<u>2,950.00</u>
	Balance	- 0 -

